藍(あい)より青(あお)し

AI YORI AOSHI

5

By Kou Fumizuki

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI™

VOLUME 5

STORY & ART
BY
KOU FUMIZUKI

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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EXPLICIT CONTENT
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT

5

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第三十九話　瑠璃―るり―

CHAPTER 39 RURI AZURE

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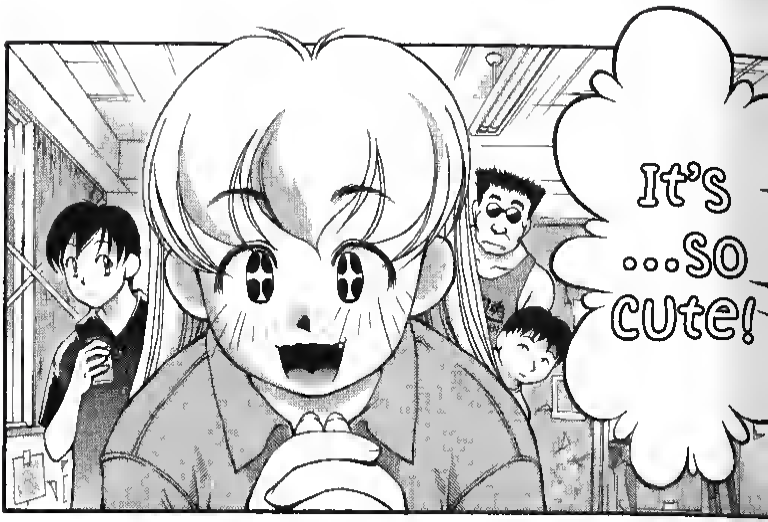
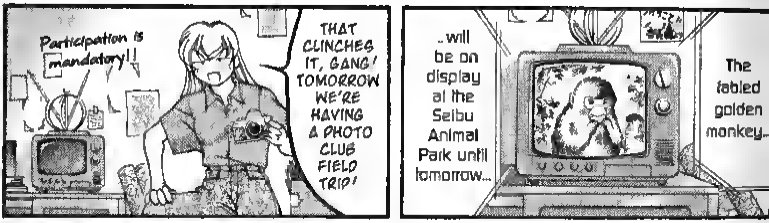
AI YORI AOSHI

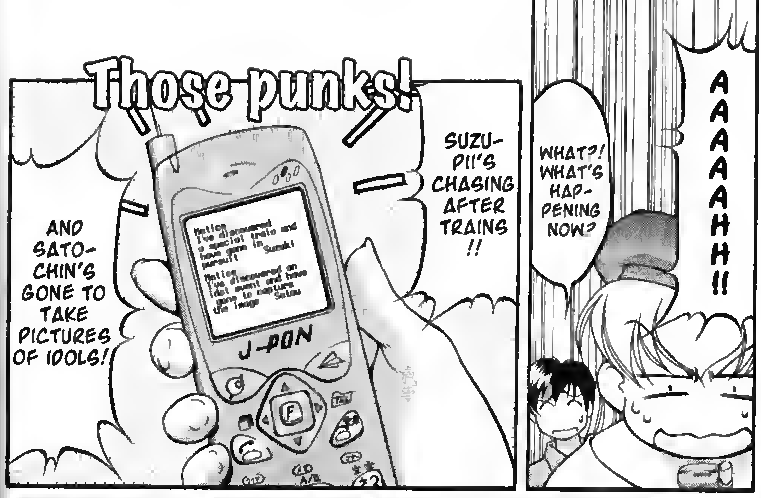

It's ...so cute!


The fabled golden monkey...
...will be on display at the Seibu Animal Park until tomorrow...
THAT CLINCHES IT, GANG! TOMORROW WE'RE HAVING A PHOTO CLUB FIELD TRIP!
Participation is mandatory!!

C'MON YOU CAN'T DROP THIS KINDA THING WITH NO NOTICE
YEAH IT'S JUST A STUPID MONKEY
Everyone will meet me in front of the Seibu Zoo at ten O'CLOCK tomorrow !!
That's an order!!
Ehhhh~?
THIS is not UP for debate!
You're going right Kaoru?
Yeah sure
We're all going!

The next morning ...
WHA--?! WHO SAYS YOU'RE NOT COMING?!
YOU'RE SERIOUS, AREN'T YOU?!
UH, THAT'S RIGHT ...
I HAVE LAUNDRY THAT NEEDS TO GET DONE.
I'M SORRY.
Sigh
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT WAS A LAST-MINUTE KIND OF THING...
I HOPE YOU ALL HAVE FUN WITH YOUR MONKEY.
I'LL HAVE DINNER WAITING FOR YOU WHEN YOU GET BACK.

DARN THAT LANDLADY...
AND HER STUPID MANAGER BAILED, TOO.
PLUS, TAECHIN WENT TO VISIT HER FAMILY --
I'm sorry!! My mother isn't feeling well!
I wanted to have fun with everyone!!
SOME THINGS CAN'T BE HELPED
Don't drown your handkerchief!
ON TOP OF IT ALL, DUMB OL' SUZUPII AND SATOCHIN ARE LATE
TIME FOR A WAKE-UP CALL!


Those punks!
SUZU-PI!'S CHASING AFTER TRAINS !!
AND SATO-CHIN'S GONE TO TAKE PICTURES OF IDOLS!
J-PON
AAAAAHH!!
WHAT?! WHAT'S HAP-PENING NOW?

.....

SETTLE DOWN, TINA. WE'VE STILL GOT EACH OTHER AND A WHOLE AFTERNOON ALONE!

C'MON. YOU WANTED TO SEE THE GOLDEN MONKEY, RIGHT?

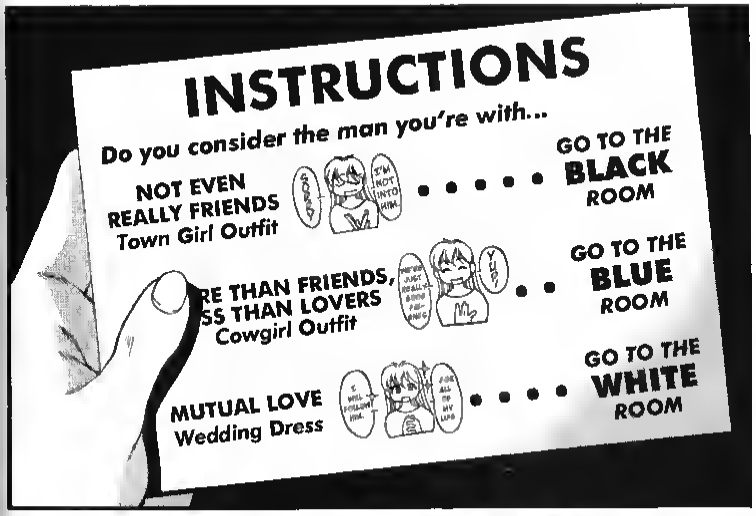
パシャ
パシャ
パシャ
るんたったるんたった
KAORU! HURRY!
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S CHEERED UP.
FOR A WHILE I WAS SCARED SHE'D FLY OFF THE HANDLE...
Coming!
LOOK, LOOK, KAORU! PENGUINS!

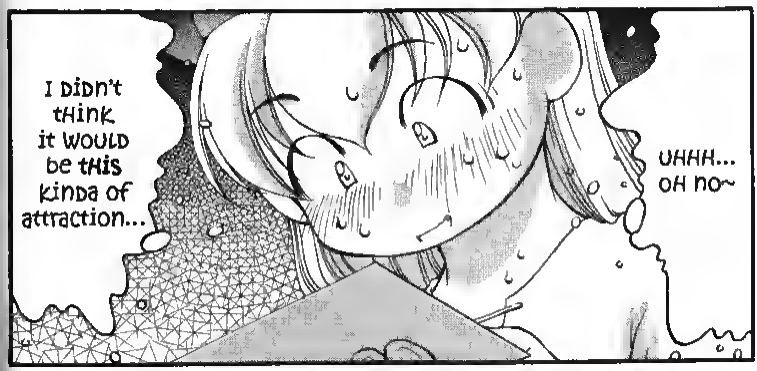
THAT MAKES A WEIRD KIND OF SENSE
YUP I ALWAYS DREAMED THAT WHEN I GOT OLDER I'D FILL MY HOUSE WITH KIDS AND CRITTERS
YOU'VE REALLY GOT A THING FOR ANIMALS, DON'T YOU?
There's babies!
Yeah, yeah !!
I CAN SEE IT NOW! YOU AND YOUR MENAGERIE IN A BIG LODGE BY A LAKE!
You understand me perfectly!
ACK
.....
AH HA HA HA! YOU'RE BLUSHING!
D-DUMMY! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
COULD YOU EVER SEE US AS A COUPLE?!
KAORU!
HM?!
Hey! Hey!
Hey!

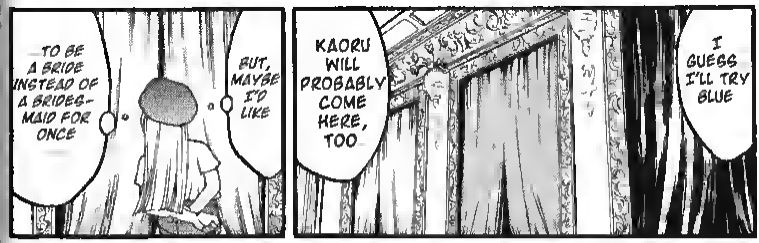
しっ
HMM...
CHECK IT OUT! IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF SPECIAL ATTRACTION!
WELCOME TO SEIBU ADVENTURE!
Actual customers!!
Customers! Neat!!
コクニ
WANNA SEE IT?!
AND YOU, MISS, ENTER THROUGH HERE...
Right this way.
Come, come
THIS WAY, SIR
EH?!
W-WAIT A...
NOW WE WOULD LIKE TO PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR ADVENTURE

TO BEGIN ...YOU ARE THE HEROIC GUNMAN!
YOUR MISSION? YOU MUST RESCUE THE PRINCESS !!
TO DO SO, YOU HAVE TO SHOOT AND DEFEAT VARIOUS ENEMIES.
WE PRAY FOR YOUR VICTORY !!
AND THEN, TAKE THESE INSTRUC-TIONS. YOU MUST READ THEM JUST AS YOU'RE ABOUT TO PASS THROUGH THE FINAL GATE
Eh?! Whaaa?!
UWAAH !!

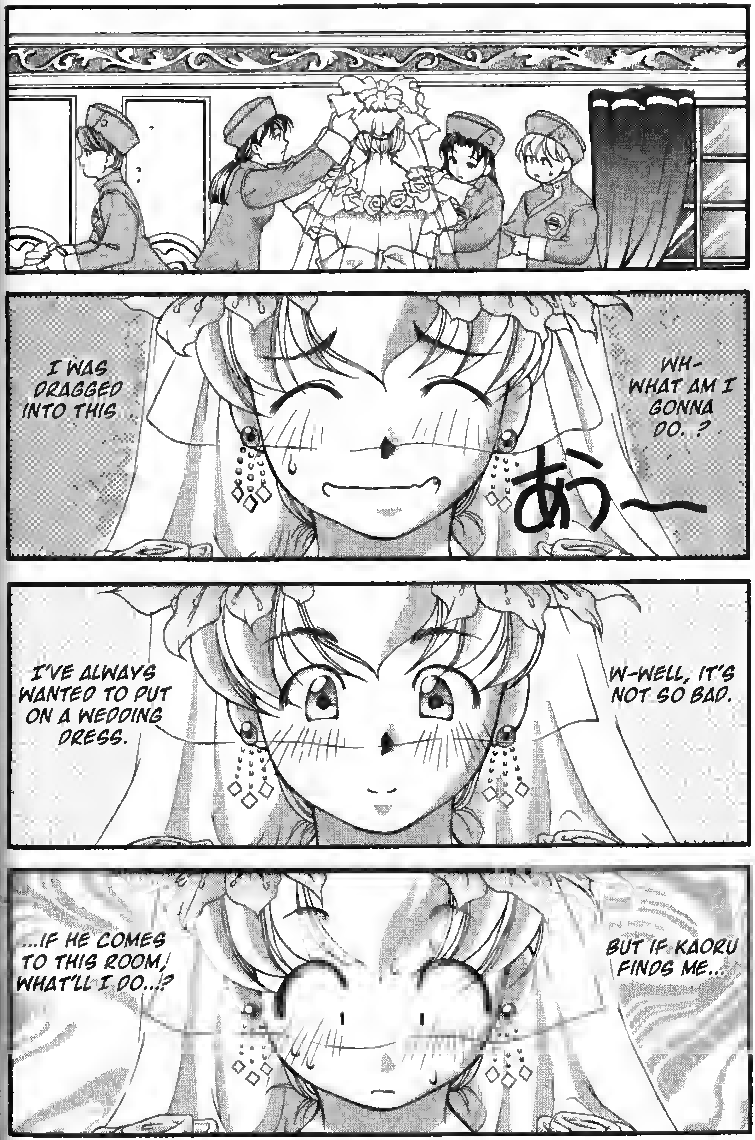
BUT IF IT'S NOT REAL, THEN WHY DO I HAVE TO WEAR ARMOR?
IT FOOLED ME THERE FOR A SECOND
Coz it was scary!
WHAT THE--?! WAS THAT A HOLOGRAM?
EEP!!
パカ
WHOA?!
TH-THIS IS TOO REALISTIC!!
Eh?!


INSTRUCTIONS
Do you consider the man you're with...
NOT EVEN REALLY FRIENDS
Town Girl Outfit
GO TO THE BLACK ROOM
RE THAN FRIENDS, SS THAN LOVERS
Cowgirl Outfit
GO TO THE BLUE ROOM
MUTUAL LOVE
Wedding Dress
GO TO THE WHITE ROOM

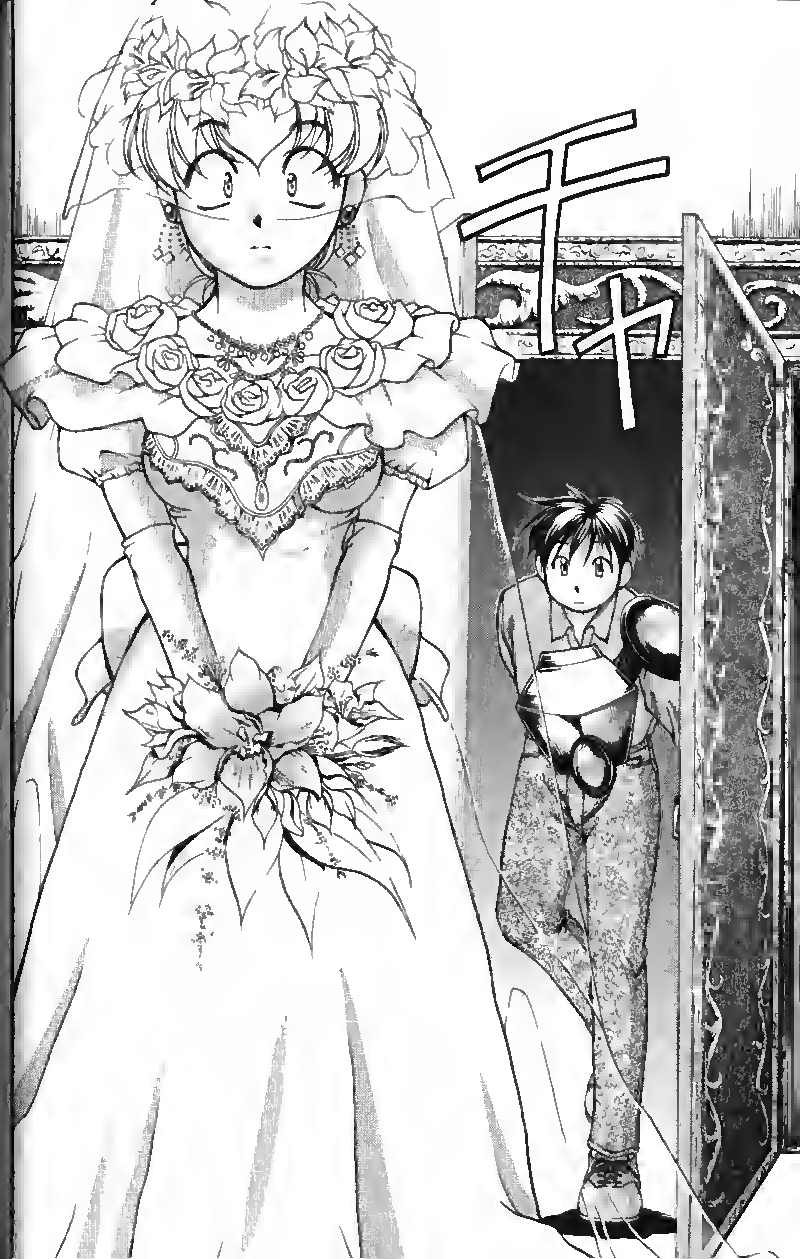

I didn't think it would be this kinda of attraction...
UHHH... OH NO~


...TO BE A BRIDE INSTEAD OF A BRIDES-MAID FOR ONCE
BUT, MAYBE I'D LIKE
KAORU WILL PROBABLY COME HERE, TOO
I GUESS I'LL TRY BLUE

I'll help you!
EH?! N-NO... I...
THE WHITE ROOM, RIGHT? PLEASE GO ON IN.
I-I finally made it...
Wheeze wheeze
I have a bad feeling about this...
JUST WHAT KIND OF INSTRUC-TIONS ARE THESE ...?
THIS IS WHERE I LOOK AT THE INSTRUC-TIONS.


I WAS DRAGGED INTO THIS..
WH-WHAT AM I GONNA DO..?
あう～
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO PUT ON A WEDDING DRESS.
W-WELL, IT'S NOT SO BAD.
...IF HE COMES TO THIS ROOM, WHAT'LL I DO...!?
BUT IF KAORU FINDS ME...

LIKE HE'D LOOK FOR ME HERE
にゃは
YEAH, RIGHT! LIKE THAT WOULD EVER HAP-PEN
IF HE DOES PICK THIS ROOM.. WHAT WOULD I DO...?
BUT...WHAT IF KAORU REALLY...?
KAORU WOULD NEVER THINK TO LOOK FOR ME HERE!!
TH-THAT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN!! EVER!!
DOESN'T COME! WHAT WILL I DO?
I I... KAORU
B-BUT, BUT IF KAORU REALLY...


チャ

KA--
--ORU?!
TINA ...?!
.....
Ah!

SQUEAL ♡
GAH!
OOHHH, Kaoru! What are you thinking, coming to a place like this?!
Ouch
I can't believe it! So that's how it is?!
How long have you felt this way about me?!
And here I was worrying for nothing!!
THAT HURTS!!

IT WAS REALLY HARD GETTING THROUGH THERE.
ESPECIALLY SINCE I DROPPED THE INSTRUCTIONS SOMEWHERE.
EH?!
WHAT ...DID YOU JUST ...?
I SAID I LOST THE INSTRUCTIONS!!
SO, I TRIED ALL THE DOORS UNTIL I FOUND ONE THAT WAS OPEN.
GUWAH!!

AH, AOI-SAMA, IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S RAINING
EH?! THAT'S TERRIBLE!
ding dong
LET ME GIVE YOU A HAND.
THANK YOU.
ALL OF MY LAUNDRY IS STILL OUTSIDE!
...a flood warning has been issued. Please take caution before traveling.

WE SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT UMBRELLAS...
IT'S ALWAYS WORSE BEFORE IT GETS BETTER, SO WE'LL JUST WAIT.
TINA'S JUST GOING TO MAKE FUN OF ME AGAIN
What a loser
I SCRAPED MY HAND IN THAT STUPID CASTLE ...
WHAT'S WRONG ?!
UHH! OWO-WOW ..
YOU WENT THROUGH SO MUCH BECAUSE OF ME.
Let me see it
ARE YOU OKAY ?!

ヘタ
TH-THANK YOU
NO NO, YOU DIDN'T
I'M SORRY DID I MAKE IT WORSE ?!
THERE! NATURE'S DISIN-FEC-TANT
Ikebukurou Line Suspended
There has been a landslide in the vicinity of Ooarai Station. Repairs are currently underway, so please wait until further notice.
Seibu Zoo Station

End of Chapter 39: Ruri—Azure

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
HUMANIST

ANOTHER VOLUME OF *AYA* FOR
YOUR READING PLEASURE.

TINA-SAN SURE CAN GET
BOSSY, AS YOU WILL SEE...

VOLUME 5 STARTS – NOW

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

第四十話

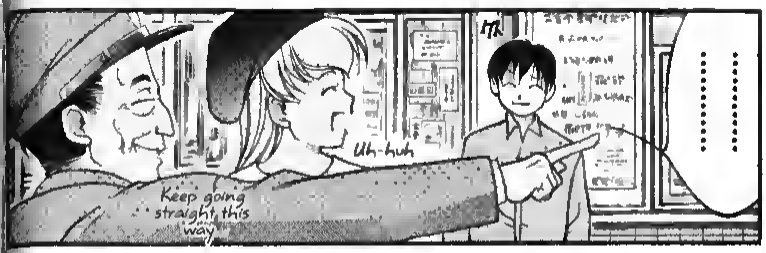
CHAPTER 40

相聞歌―そうもんか―

SOUMONKA SERENADE

EEEEEHH?!
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT'LL TAKE TO CLEAR THE WAY?!
THERE WAS A LANDSLIDE THIS AFTERNOON...
NOTHING CAN GET THROUGH.
I put out a sign
HMMM.. GOOD QUESTION, HUH
I THINK IT WILL BE A LITTLE LONGER NOW..
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?
When can we get home?
パラ
パラ
パラ
パラ
パラ

おはぁ~おはぁ~
hee-hee
hee-hee
Ha ha! This lady's funny!
NO SENSE JUST SITTING AROUND HERE WAITING FOR THE TRAINS TO MOVE!
SPEAKING OF, THERE'S A KARAOKE PLACE NEARBY LET'S GO!
I'M JUST KILLING TIME!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TINA?!
STATION MASTER-SAAAN! WHERE'S THE NEAREST KARAOKE PALACE?!
Huh?
IT'LL BE FUN! WE'LL KEEP SCORE AND WHOEVER LOSES, PAYS!!
HMM... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT..
HEY
HEY
HEY


Keep going straight this way.
Uh-huh
ITK
.....

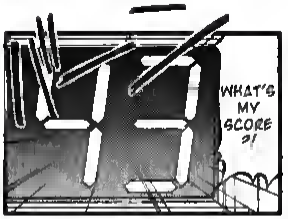
ALL RIGHT! LET'S SING!
SHEESH. LIFE'S NEVER BORING WITH TINA AROUND.

GRANDPA, GRANDMA

AND THE NEIGHBORS, TOO

PAPA AND MAMA, BROTHER AND SISTER...

パラ
パラ


WHAT'S MY SCORE?!

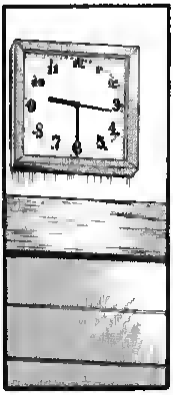
Oh-haaaa!

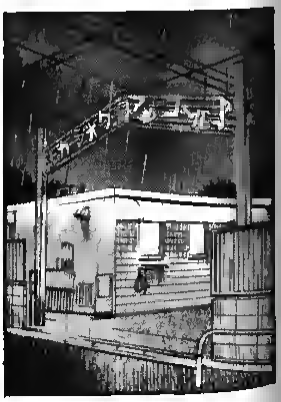
ALL RIGHT! NOW IT'S SIX TO FIVE!!
UWA-AAHH! I LOST!!
ガーン

THIS IS ANNOYING!!
Hey, it's even if it's just 43 points, a win is a win!!
UUGHHH OUR SCORES ARE PATHETIC! IT WAS BARELY WORTH THE EFFORT!

MAN, THAT REALLY TOOK ME BY SURPRISE.

WHAT DID?!
ぼえ





TINA IN A WEDDING DRESS!!
I still can't believe it
YOU WERE REALLY PRETTY.
HEH HEH. THANKS.
YOU KNOW, THAT MAKES YOU THE FIRST PERSON EVER TO SEE ME AS A BRIDE.
AH?! YEAH ... I GUESS SO.
DAN
I WONDER WHAT YOUR FUTURE HUSBAND WILL BE LIKE.
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT?
.....
...I HAVE.

MY HUSBAND
AND HE'S REALLY, REALLY NICE
EVEN WHEN I ACT STUPID
HE'LL THINK, "SHE'S HOPELESS," AND SIMPLY SMILE YOU KNOW, THAT KIND OF GUY.
WOW, THAT'S PRETTY SPECIFIC
HEH... YEAH...
AND USUALLY HE WON'T SHOW THAT SIDE OF HIMSELF.
...WILL BE SOMEONE WHO IS.
...JUST A LITTLE SHY.

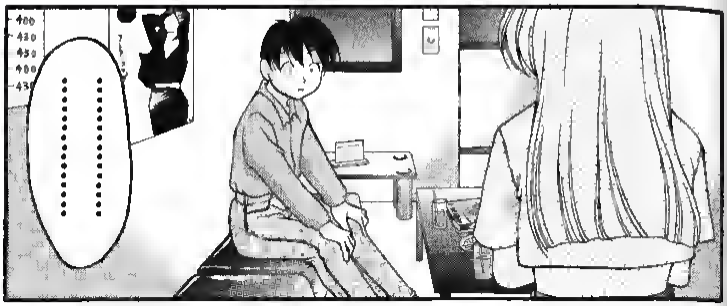
I HOPE SOMEDAY I ACTUALLY FIND SOME-ONE LIKE THAT...
トン
トン
トン
トン
トン
トン

KAORU ...
HM?!
UH, UM... C-CAN I...SING FIRST ?!
YEAH, GO AHEAD, I DON'T MIND.
K-KAORU
YEAH ?!
.....
I'M GOING TO SING
OH
A WES-TERN SONG
SAILING TO THE MOON

Let's sail to the moon
And we can drift among the stars
Floating on the cosmic waves
From Mercury to Mars
Let's not mince words,
hold me tight!
Let's not mince words,
dear won't you kiss me?

Fill my soul with love
And let me dream forevermore
You're the one I love the most
All these thoughts I can't ignore
NO BRA
BRAND
Let's not mince words, tell me true!
Let's not mince words ...

I LOVE YOU…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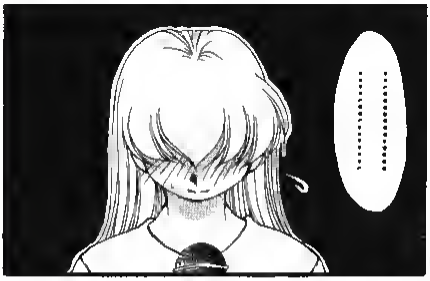
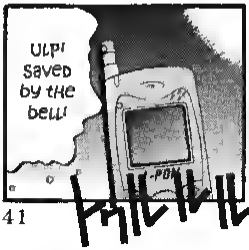


WOW! THAT'S GREAT, TINA! OF COURSE YOU'D BE GOOD AT WESTERN SONGS
I GOT TOTALLY CARRIED AWAY BY THE SONG!

THANKS !!


ULP! SAVED BY THE BELL!
PON

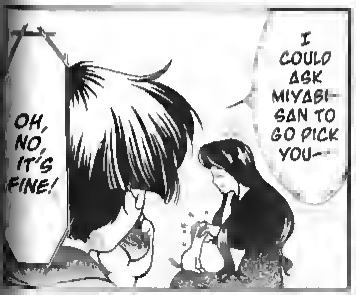
EH?! WELL, IT'S LIKE THIS ...
SO WHAT DO THE LYRICS MEAN IN JAPANESE?!

HELLO, IS THIS TINA-SAN?

STUDIO J
YEAH, HELLO?

EH?! ARE YOU ALL OKAY ...?
SORRY! WE SHOULDA CALLED THE TRAINS AREN'T RUNNING

OH, LANDLADY-SAN!
I APOLOGIZE FOR BOTHERING YOU. IT'S JUST...YOU WERE LATE GETTING HOME I WAS WORRIED


OH, NO, IT'S FINE!
I COULD ASK MIYABI-SAN TO GO PICK YOU--

AND IF WORSE COMES TO WORST, WE'LL SPEND THE NIGHT AT THIS KARAOKE PLACE.
DAN
THE TRAINS ARE PROBABLY RUNNING AGAIN NOW.
THAT IS... UH... YEAH !!
EH?! NOT LIKE THAT...IT'S TOTALLY INNOCENT! HEH-HEH! ICK!!
THAT IS... THE NIGHT .....?
EH?! UM...
はHAは
はHAはHA

Eh...?!
No...
That is...
Y-YES. BECAUSE THE WHOLE CLUB IS WITH YOU, RIGHT?
I JUST GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH THE LANDLADY
EEP! OH WELL...
Y-YEAH.
WELL, PLEASE SAY HELLO TO KAORU-SAMA FOR ME.
UHUH
YEAH.
WELL, SHOULD WE GO HOME, KAORU?
Everything shuts down early in the country
THEY SAY THEY'RE CLOSING NOW.

パラ
パラ
パラ
パラ
WOOOOO! TODAY SURE WAS FUN!
YEAH, BUT A LOT HAPPENED, TOO.
sigh
Nya-ha-ha-ha
KAORU!!
クル

THANK YOU FOR SPENDING THE DAY WITH ME!!
THANKS FOR INVITING ME OUT FOR SUCH A GOOD TIME!
YOU'RE WEL-COME.

BUT THAT'S THE LAST KARAOKE BATTLE WHERE I GO UP AGAINST YOU.
WHAA?! BUT WE FINALLY FOUND SOMETHING WE COULD COMPETE IN!!
DON'T SAY THAT!!
ALL RIGHT!!
HEY, DID YOU HEAR THAT?! A TRAIN!
ガタン
ガタン

YOU JUST MISSED THE LAST DEPARTURE
HAH! YOU CITY FOLK ARE ALL THE SAME!
BUT IT'S STILL SO EARLY ...
EEEEHH !?!
AH
.....
AROUND HERE, THIS IS WHEN EVERY-THING STOPS.
WHAT?!

End of Chapter 40: Soumonka — Serenade

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
HUMANIST

THE TRANSIT LINE IS DOWN
AND TINA & KAORU ARE STUCK
IN A DOWNPOUR. WHAT WILL THEY
DO IN THE MEANTIME?

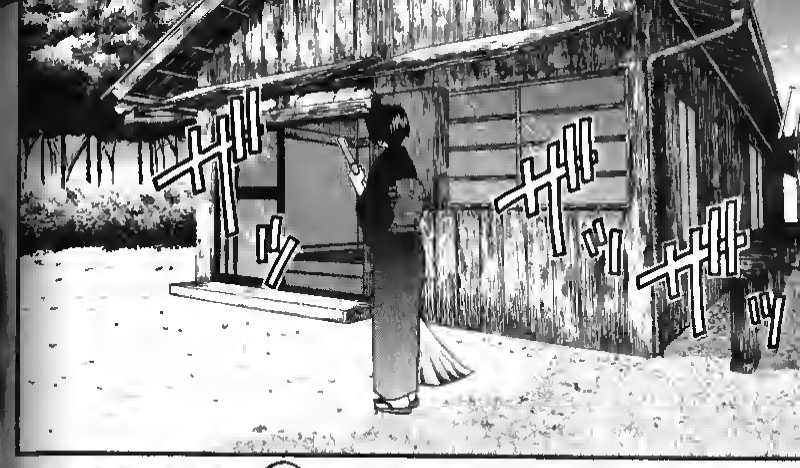
INCREASINGLY BAD WEATHER STARTS — NOW!

藍より青し

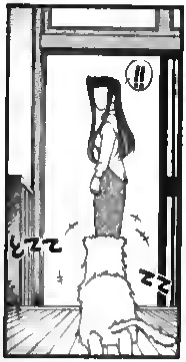
AI YORI AOSHI

SPECIAL CHAPTER AMATERASU SUN GODDESS

特別編　天照―あまてらす―



GOOD MORNING.
AH! GOOD MORNING, MIYABI-SAN
AOI-SAMA, YOU DON'T HAVE TO CLEAN BY THE GUEST HOUSE
I KNOW I'M DOING IT BECAUSE I WANT TO
BESIDES, IT'S SUNDAY, SO EVERY-ONE'S STILL SLEEPING
REALLY. COLLEGE STU-DENTS ARE SO LAZY.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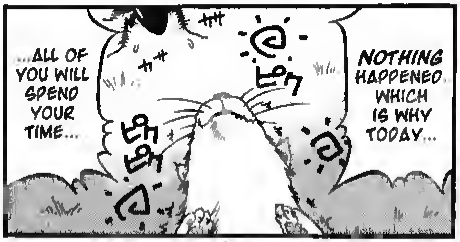


▲ Unconscious

YOU WILL START WITH KAORU-DONO'S ROOM!!
K19F.
AH! KAORU, QUITE A COLLECTION YOU HAVE HERE ...
So young
GRAVURE
Vol.15
KAORU-DONO'S ROOM IS MAINLY CLUTTER, SO IT SHOULD BE EASY TO STRAIGHTEN UP.
ヨシ!
ヨシ!

I think perverted things are bad!
blush
Ah, boys will be boys
SATOU LEFT THAT HERE!!
H-HEY!! LEAVE THAT STUFF ALONE!
Sorry
NEXT IS MINAZUKI-SAN'S ROOM!!
YOU JUST HAVE A LOT OF THINGS THAT I DON'T APPROVE OF
Delightful
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOUR AREA NEEDS MUCH CLEANING

LAST AND CERTAINLY WORST, TINA-SAN'S BEDROOM!!
HEH. SORRY, GUYS.
THIS PIGSTY REQUIRES A DEEP CLEAN.
WHY IS THIS PICTURE FACE-DOWN?!
EH?!
LOOKING AT ALL HER STUFF, IT JUST FEELS SO AMERICAN

ホリズ
NOTHING TO SEE HERE! MOVE ALONG!!
IS SOMETHING WRONG?!
KYU?!
WHAT'D YA DO THAT FOR, TINA? THAT HURT!
SORRY, KAORU-CHAN. MY ELBOW, UH, SLIPPED.
HOW DOES YOUR ELBOW SLIP?!

WELL, WE'VE CONQUERED AT LEAST ONE FLOOR.
K13E
!!

CAUTION
NOO!
ST-STOP IT, YOU BEAST!!
KEEP THAT AWAY FROM ME!!
K13F
FULL HOUSE
A-are you all right, Miyabi-san?

BUA HA HA!
What happened Miyabi-san?
オロ
オロ
A HA HA
EVEN THE GREAT MIYABI-SAN HAS SOME THINGS THAT WIG HER OUT.
YEAH, WHAT'S GOT YOU FREAKED, MANAGER-SAN?
M-MIYABI-SAN, WE'RE SORRY WE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.
THAT'S RIGHT I MEAN... WE JUST DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE SUCH A SIGGY
モジ
K13F
モジ

ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT UNTIL SHE CALMS DOWN.
AW, MAN SHE'S REALLY MAD AT US...
キュウ...
……
カリ
キュウ
カリ
カリ

コンコン
MIYABI-SAN DINNER'S READY
IS SHE COMING ?!
I DON'T THINK SO
HERE'S YOUR DINNER, LITTLE ONE
MIYABI-SAN DIDN'T EAT LUNCH EITHER, DID SHE ?!
フン フン フン
NO THAT'S WHY I'M WORRIED ...
OH, DEAR

コチコチコチコチ
コチ
コチ
SHE'S STILL TRYING TO GET IN?!
K13F.
FULL HOUSE
カリ…

PLEASE!! PLEASE COME OUT, MIYABI-SAN!
カチャ
キュウウ
YES, I THINK SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT MIYABI-SAN.
MIYABI-SAN!!
AH! MIYABI-SAN!!
NYA HA HA
Tee Hee
K13F
FULL HOUSE
DON'T YOU GUYS KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP?
REALLY MAKING THAT RACKET ALL DAY LIKE THAT

YES.
FROM THE MYTH, RIGHT?
WHU-ZZAT?! WHAT KIND OF STORY IS IT?
JUST LIKE AMA-NO-UZUME-NO-MIKOTO.
WHEN AMATERASU OOMIKAMI HID BEHIND THE GATE OF THE CELESTIAL ROCK CAVE.
..UZUME PERFORMED A DANCE FOR THE OTHER GODS, MAKING THEM LAUGH SO HARD THAT AMATERASU WAS LURED OUT BY CURIOSITY.
OH!! I'VE GOT IT! WHY DON'T ...
...WE NAME THE FERRET UZUME?!

End of Special Chapter: Amaterasu—Sun Goddess

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
HUMANIST

A PERSISTENT SCRATCHING-
SCRATCHING AT ONE'S DOOR...

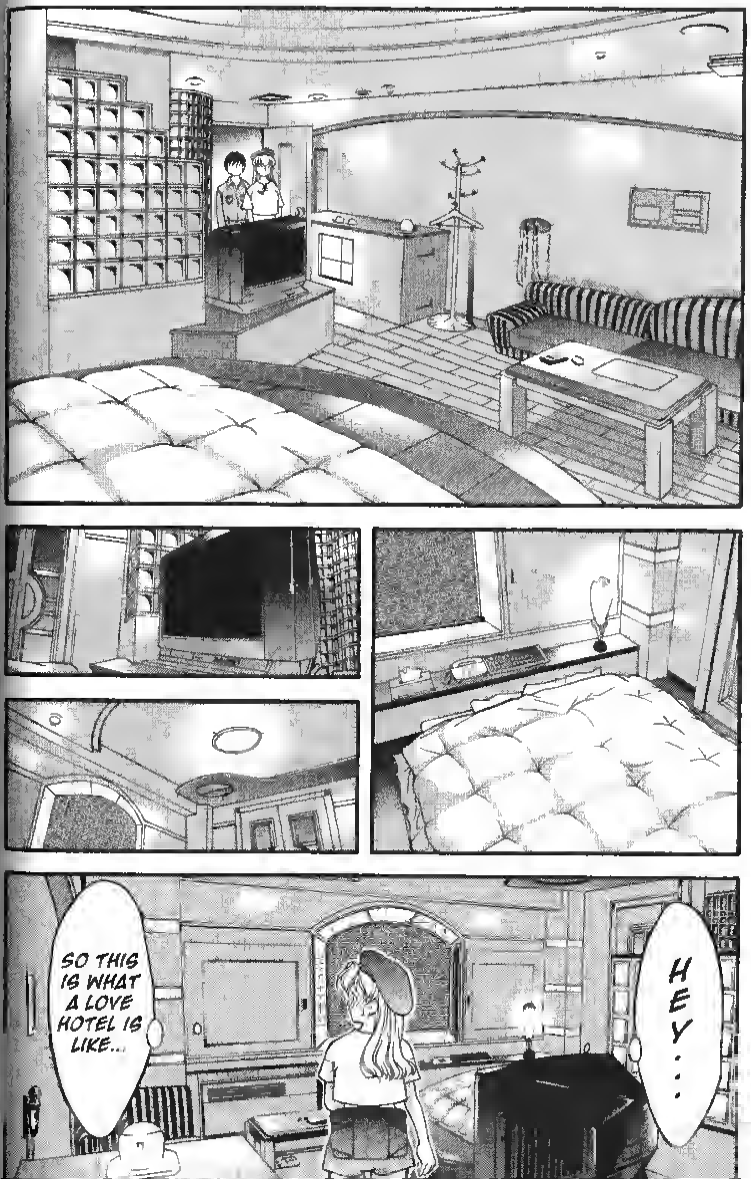
CHAPTER 41: DOUKIN—SHARING A BED

第四十一話　同衾—どうきん—

I-I'M SURE... THERE'S A BAR OR SOMETHING THAT'S STILL OPEN
and we were kicked out of the station.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO...? THERE AREN'T ANY TAXIS, AND I DON'T SEE ANY FAMILY RESTAURANTS
WHAT? AND WHERE DO YOU SEE THIS MAGICAL PLACE...?
ANIMOUR
Complete Karaoke
Complete Arcade
AM8:00~PM6:00 ¥4000~
PM6:00~AM8:00 ¥6000~

IF WE STAY THE NIGHT HERE ...
PHEW! WE'RE SAVED ...
HERE!!
...UH ...THIS PLACE ...?
I-IT REALLY... UM... IS...
Blush
ううぁあぁ

.....
Y-YEAH WHATEVER WERE GONNA SAY I AGREE!!
EVEN IF THERE IS KARAOKE... WELL, YOU KNOW!!
スゴ
スゴ
Y-YEAH! THAT'S RIGHT! MERELY SHELTER FROM THE RAIN!!
TINA, IT'S MERELY SHELTER FROM THE RAIN WE NEED... RIGHT?!!
I-I-I'LL LET YOU DECIDE, KAORU
WH-WH-WH-WHERE SHOULD WE STAY?!
STAY ¥10
2 ○ c ○ 3
ウゥゥ……ン

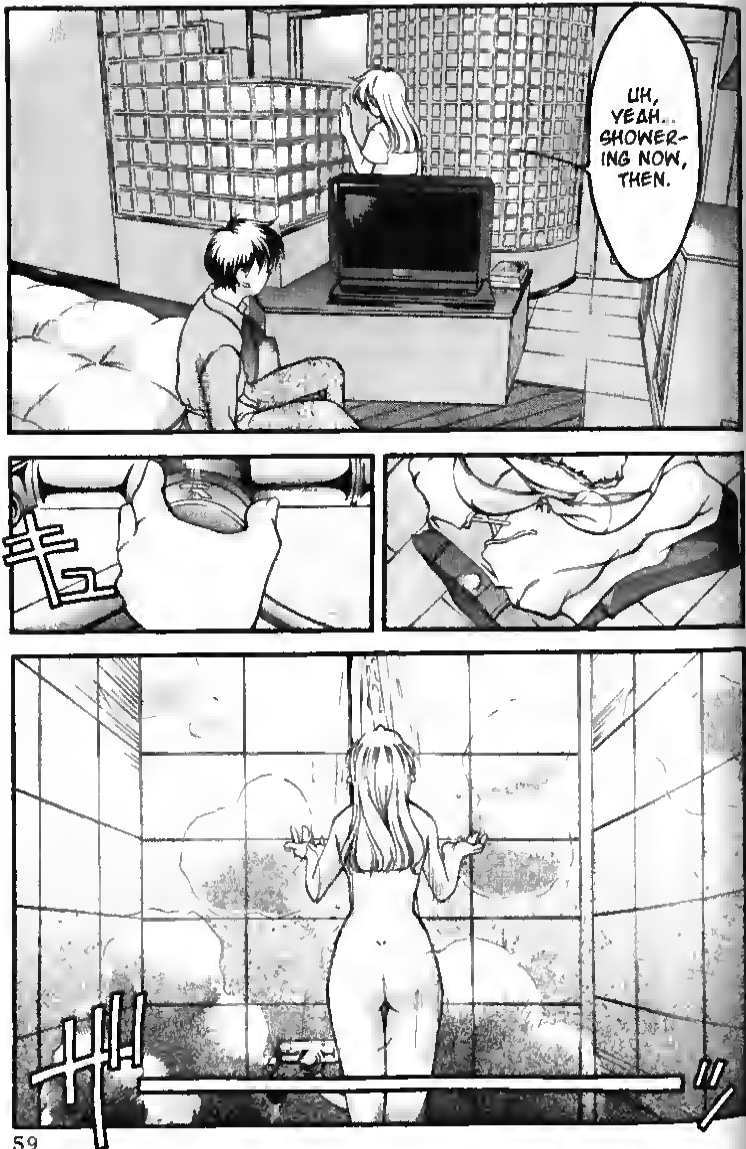

HEY...
SO THIS IS WHAT A LOVE HOTEL IS LIKE...

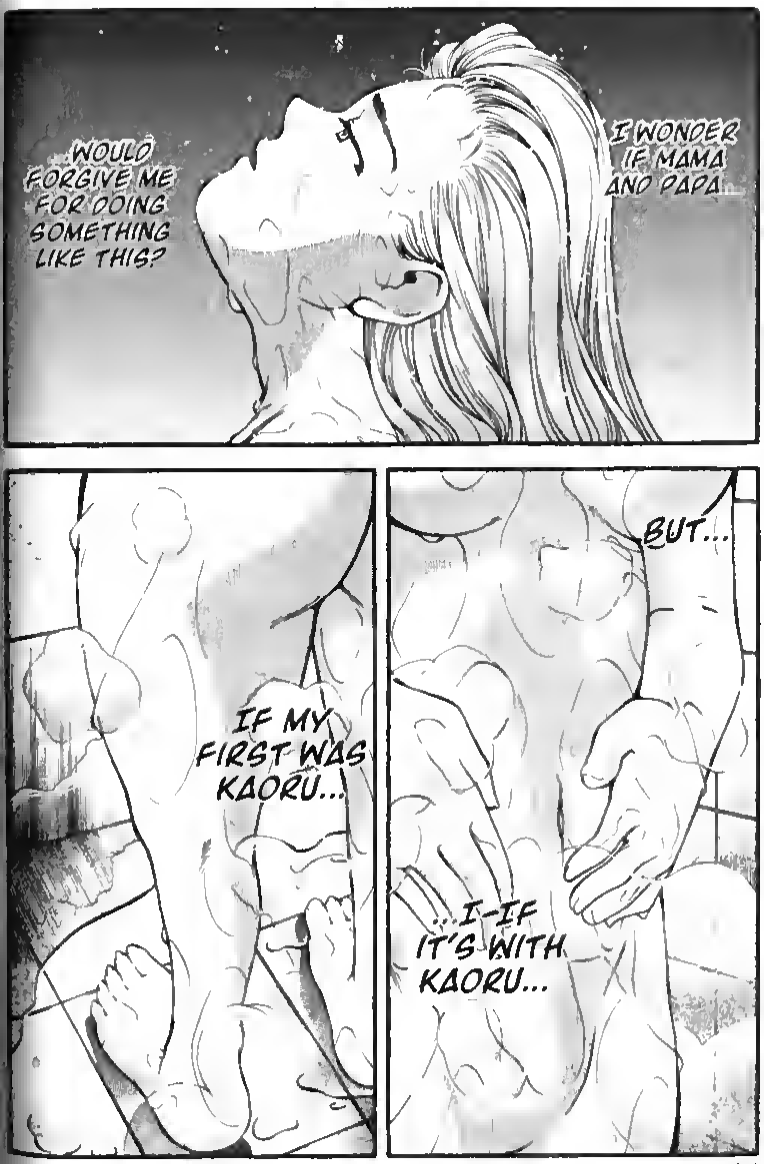
EH, UH... TH-TH-THANK YOU.
UM... NEED A TOWEL?
WHAT?!
WHAT?!
WH-
WH-WHA-?
TINA...
I-I SEE...
NO, THIS IS MY FIRST TIME, TOO.
Y-YEAH. YOU HAVEN'T DONE THIS BEFORE, HAVE YOU?
WHAT'S UP? IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, TINA?!
.....
>...
OH! AHH YES!!
Y-YEAH!!
I got an idea! Let's watch TV!!

GO. EASIER ON ME.. THIS IS MY FIRST TIME
D-DON'T, KAORU
BUT, TINA, YOU'RE UH
I-IT'S INCRE-DIBLE
AH! I'M... COM-ING
...COMING !!
THERE!!
Gaaaahh!
Yee-ha! Super combo!

IT'S NOT FAIR FOR YOU TO USE THAT CHARACTER, TINA.
WHA-AAA--? YOU'RE QUITTING ALREADY?!
I quit
3:04
I THINK ...I'LL TAKE A SHOWER.
EH?!
EEK!!
NO, I DIDN'T mean anything weird ...!
S-see, my body's so cold ...
Ha ha!
あは
あは
Ha ha!
TINA, LOOK OU--!

ハアアァ
ぼっ
……

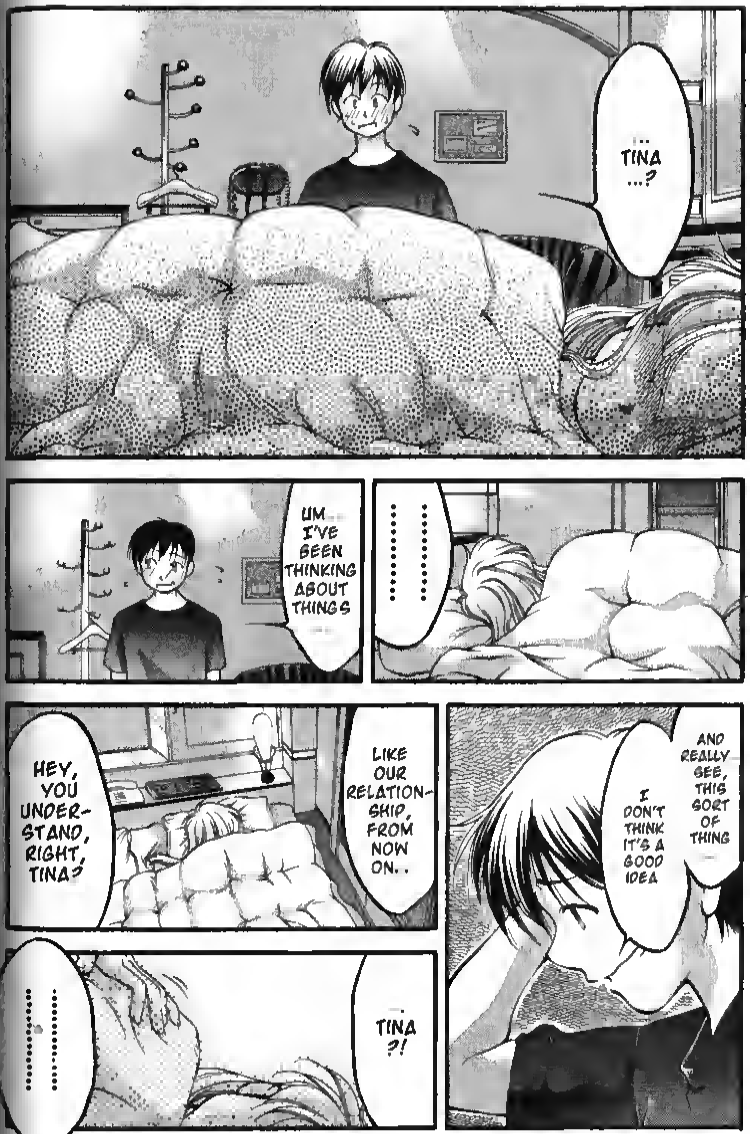

UH, YEAH.. SHOWER-ING NOW, THEN.
#!!


I WONDER IF MAMA AND PAPA
WOULD FORGIVE ME FOR DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
IF MY FIRST WAS KAORU...
BUT...
...I-IF IT'S WITH KAORU...

PAPA...
MAMA...
I'M SORRY...
YOUR DAUGHTER'S A BAD PERSON.

UH, SURE
WHY DON'T YOU SHOWER TOO, KAORU?!
..
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?!
WHAT'LL I DO...?!
"...DECIDED ON AOI-CHAN.
I THOUGHT I'D ALREADY...

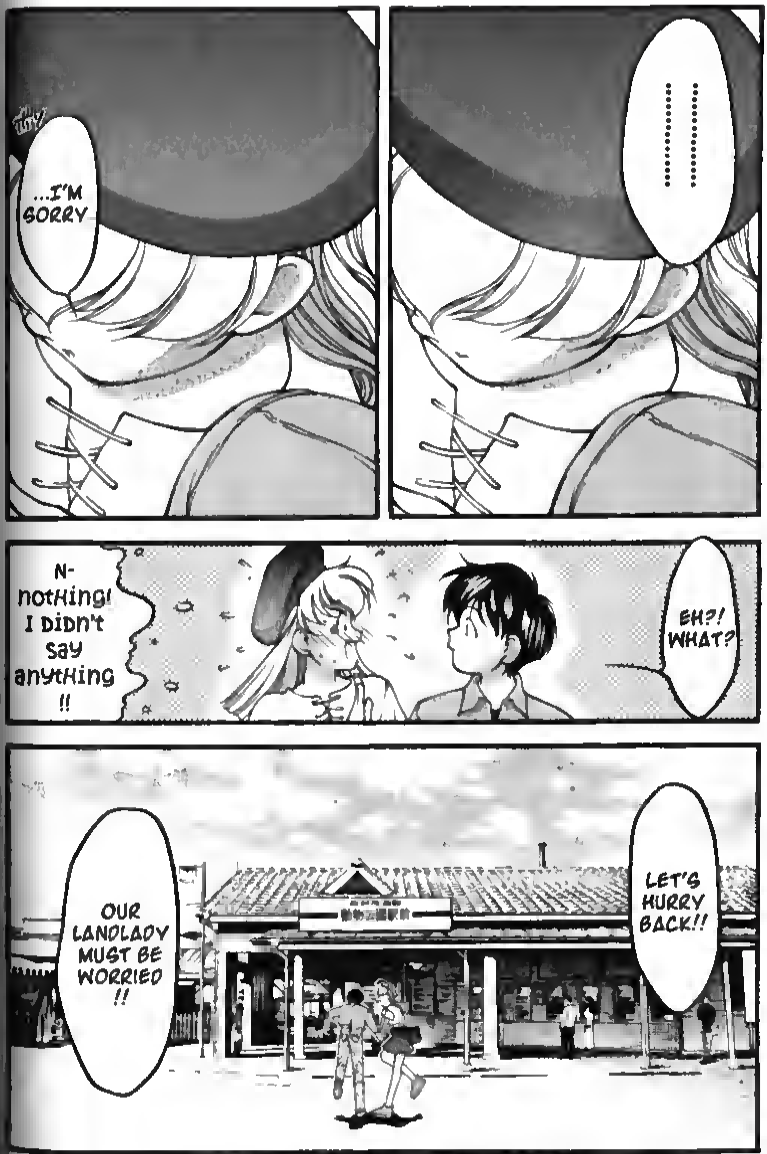
...WAS SOMEHOW... REALLY...
BUT TODAY, TINA..
TINA'S ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS!! I DON'T WANT TO RUIN THAT!
SHE NEEDS TO KNOW I VALUE HER FRIENDSHIP !!
WHAT AM I THINKING!?!
N-NO!! NO!!


...TINA...?
UM... I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THINGS...
.....
AND REALLY SEE, THIS SORT OF THING
I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA
LIKE OUR RELATIONSHIP, FROM NOW ON..
HEY, YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT, TINA?
.....
...TINA?!

SHEESH...! THIS IS SO LIKE YOU, TINA!!

HOTEL ANIMAL
LAST NIGHT I FELL ASLEEP, DIDN'T I?
HEY, WE WERE JUST TRYING TO GET OUT OF THE RAIN ...
TH-that's right!! I'm SUCH a dork!
Imagine staying at a place like that to get out of the rain!
Ah ha ha ha

... KAORU ...?
YEAH. WE SHOULD PLAY IT AGAIN
THAT GAME WAS FUN, THOUGH.
WHILE WE...WALK TO THE STATION ...
...IS IT OKAY IF I HOLD YOUR HAND...?
YAY!!
Tee hee
WHAAA!
ぎゅ
... I... GUESS ...
EH?! UM...



End of Chapter 41: Doukin—Sharing a Bed

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN COURTESY OF *HUMANIST*

DON'T YOU WISH THERE WERE A LOVE HOTEL IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD? UHHH, ACTUALLY, MAYBE NOT...)

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

CHAPTER 42 FUUKI—COLD WIND

第四十二話　風気—ふうき—

NNNGH...
THAT'S WEIRD. USUALLY WHEN WE'RE LATE, AOI-CHAN COMES TO WAKE US UP...
NN?!
.....
W-WE'RE LATE!!
TINA!! TINA, WAKE UP!
WE'RE LATE!!
AAAAH!!
WHAT GIVES?! ISN'T THE LANDLADY THE ONE WHO COMES BANGING?

OH! GOOD MORNING
AAAH! TAE-CHIN, WHERE'S THE LAND-LADY?!
HMM, I HAVEN'T SEEN HER YET
G-GOOD MORNING
I'm sorry ...
フラ
フラ
I was... just about to go ...
... wake you ...
フラ

LAND-LADY-SAN!!
A-AOI-CHAN!!

AOI-SAMA!!

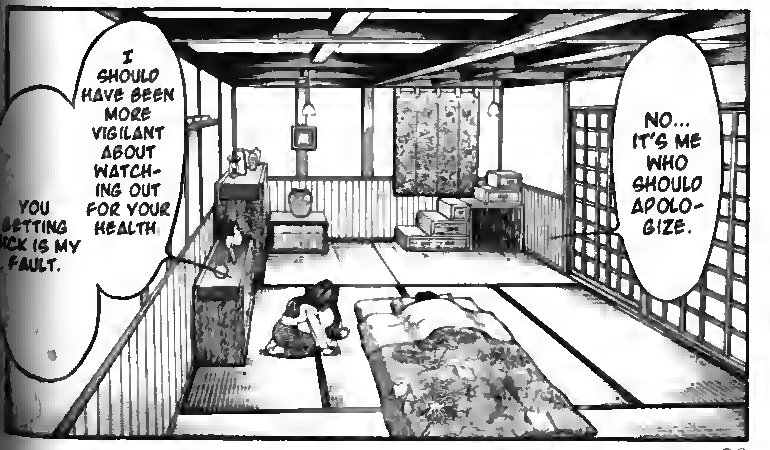
YOU MUSTN'T PUSH YOURSELF, AOI-SAMA IT'S BACK TO BED FOR YOU!!
YOU HAVE A HIGH FEVER!!

I-I'M SORRY I'M JUST A LITTLE D-DIZZY
AOI-CHAN, ARE YOU OKAY?! AOI-CHAN!!

あたふた
I'LL GO GET SOME WATER!!
AH! I'LL GO GET TOWELS!!
I- I'M ALL RIGHT...
30...
I THINK IT'S JUST A COLD...
PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
YOU CAN'T MISS SCHOOL ON MY ACCOUNT... PLEASE...
IF THAT'S WHAT AOI-SAMA WANTS...
PLEASE HONOR HER WISHES. IT'S A STUDENT'S JOB TO GO TO SCHOOL. LEAVE EVERYTHING HERE TO ME.
.....

O-OKAY... WE UNDER-STAND

I'M S-SORRY... MIYABI-SAN


I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE VIGILANT ABOUT WATCH-ING OUT FOR YOUR HEALTH.
YOU GETTING SICK IS MY FAULT.
NO... IT'S ME WHO SHOULD APOLO-GIZE.

KAORU-SAMA... I HOPE HE'S OKAY
Huff
Huff
IF HE WERE TO HURT HIMSELF BECAUSE HE WAS WORRYING ABOUT ME...
Puff
Gasp... pant
...KAORU-SAMA...
Huff
Huff
.....
HA!
NA!
BI!
SHI!
SA...!

ベタ〜
MA〜♡
WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT TO DINNER WITH ME TONIGHT?
イライラ
AAAAGH!!
YOU REALLY PISS ME OFF!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU'RE EVEN MORE BOORISH THAN USUAL!
KAORU DOESN'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY WITH THE LIKES OF YOU!!
SORRY, MAYU-CHAN
YOU SEE, MY LAND-LADY--YOU MET HER, REMEMBER?--CAUGHT A COLD

TAEKO-CHAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
TINA MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT AOI-CHAN, TOO...
OOOH THAT MAKES MAYU SAD...
SO... YEAH, YOU UNDER-STAND, RIGHT?
OH! I WAS THINKING I'D MAKE SOME TAMAGO SAKE FOR AOI-SAN...
It's what my mom used to make for me.
COLD REMEDIES
NO MESSING AROUND AFTER CLASS, GUYS! GO STRAIGHT HOME!
OKAY!!
I just hope I don't screw it up...
OH, GOOD IDEA...

Welcome home
HOW'S AOI-CHAN?!
WE'RE BACK!!
SHE'S SLEEPING RIGHT NOW, SO KEEP YOUR VOICES DOWN
IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO?
YOU CAN DO THE CHORES SO AOI-SAMA DOESN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THEM
Yes, ma'am.
MINAZUKI-SAN, PLEASE GET DINNER READY
You bet!
TINA-SAN, YOU DO THE LAUNDRY
Okay.
KAORU-DONO, YOU'LL CLEAN THE MANSION

I STILL HAVE MORE THAN HALF THE HOUSE LEFT ...
K-KAORUUU !!
I CAN'T BELIEVE AOI-CHAN... DOES THIS EVERY DAY...
You used too much detergent!!
BUBBLES!!
MAKE THEM STOP !!

I'M STARVING ...!
LET'S EAT!!
TONIGHT WE'RE HAVING MISO SOUP WITH CLAMS !!
DINNER IS SERVED !!
Sigh...
I'm sorry...
TAE-CHIN... DID YOU TAKE THE SAND OUT OF THESE?
HUH? WHAT SAND?!

TEN O'CLOCK IT'S NEARLY CURFEW BETTER GET BACK TO MY ROOM
KAORU-DONO!!
AH! M-MIYABI-SAN..
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE!
PLEASE TAKE THIS TO AOI-SAMA.
EH? ARE YOU SURE?!
TONIGHT I'D LIKE YOU TO STAY WITH AOI-SAMA.
HOWEVER!!
I'll be on guard in the next room!!
IF ANYTHING UNTHINKABLE SHOULD HAPPEN ...

ス——…
AOI-CHAN'S STILL ASLEEP
SHE'S SO CUTE
…WHEN SHE'S SLEEPING
ど…
……

...YET THEY KEEP THE ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD IN ORDER
HER HANDS ARE SO TINY ...
WHA?!
EH?!
GRAB
NNNNN...

きゅうぅぅ…
O-OH, YEAH... AOI-CHAN HAS A HABIT OF HUGGING THINGS IN HER SLEEP.
HEY, YOU'RE AWAKE?! AOI-CHAN..
……
ぱっ
ぱっ
ぱっ
ぱっ
...Kaoru-sama...
じぃ…
Kaoru-sama...?

AOI-CHAN, WH-WHAT'S WRONG?!
I-I'M SORRY... I LET YOU DOWN TODAY, KAORU-SAMA...
AS YOUR BETROTHED.. I'M SUPPOSED TO WORK HARDER...
... TO BE ABLE TO SERVE MY FUTURE HUSBAND MORE..
AH...

ALL THAT STUFF YOU USUALLY DO...
NAH, IT'S OKAY. WE ALL CHIPPED IN ON THE HOUSE-WORK.
IT JUST PROVED TO ME ONCE AGAIN HOW AMAZING YOU ARE, AOI-CHAN.
WELL, THE THREE OF US REALLY SUCK AT IT.
..I'M BAFFLED BY MY OWN LUCK.
REALLY.. WHEN I THINK HOW I HAVE SUCH A FANTASTIC PERSON AS MY FIANCÉE...

... KAORU-SAMA ...
EVERY-ONE IS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU, TOO.
Here
MIYABI-SAN MADE SOME HOT, MEDICINAL WATER
TAEKO-CHAN MADE SOME TAMAGO SAKE.
AND TINA BOUGHT
... A "GRUM-BLING VIPER DRINK" ?!
MIYABI-SAN. TAEKO-SAN. TINA-SAN
THANK YOU SO MUCH
AND I'LL STAY BY YOUR SIDE ALL NIGHT
Miyabi-san said it's okay
EH?! Really ?!
I'm so happy!

SOMETIMES BEING SICK CAN BE KIND OF NICE
HEH... I WAS JUST THINKING
HUH?!
Tee hee hee
...BECAUSE NOW I CAN HAVE MY KAORU-SAMA DO WHATEVER I WANT! ♡
HEE. YES, SIR! THANK YOU.
ALL RIGHT, YOU, EAT UP BEFORE IT GETS COLD.

End of Chapter 42: Fuuki—Cold Wind

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
HUMANIST

AOI-CHAN REALLY IS AN
AMAZING PERSON, ISN'T SHE?
(OH YES AND SHE'S CUTE, TOO.)

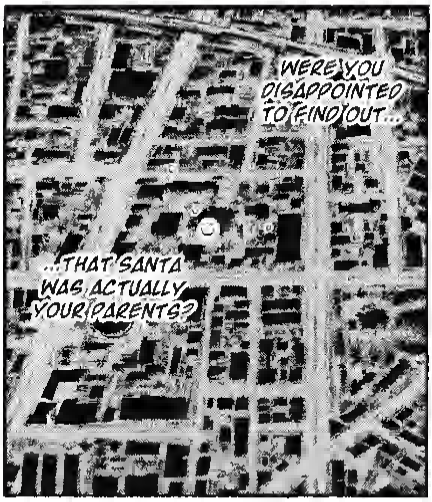
CHAPTER 43 — MIYUKI DEEP SNOW

第四十三話　深雪―みゆき―

Ai-Ao Theatre, part 10

Fake Aoi

To be continued...



...ALL OF YOU BELIEVE...

...IN SANTA CLAUS?!

WE ARE CLOSED TODAY
Sorry! We're closed
GOOD WORK!
Hey! It's snowing
GOOD WORK!
WANNA COME WITH?
12 23
2
天候 ゆき
WE'RE ALL GOING OUT FOR A DRINK
HEY, HANABISHI-KUN.
Kaoru Hanabishi, college sophomore.
I-I'M SORRY... I HAVE SOMETHING TO DO.
He's afraid of a ferret
Hanabishi's not showing?
YOU BET.
WELL, NEXT TIME, THEN.
COME ON! ARE YOU SERIOUS?

* He's holding about 5 bucks worth of coins.
THIS IS ALL THE MONEY I HAVE.
SIGH... I CAN'T TELL THEM...
AND PAYDAY ISN'T UNTIL TOMOR-ROW.
IT'S BEEN ROUGH SINCE I LEFT THE HANABISHI FAMILY ...
キラ✦
I saw a sparkle at the corner of my eye...
HUH?
AAH !!

OWWWW!!
WHAT THE HELL HIT ME?!
?!
Is it a present someone hated?
THIS KIND OF THING DOESN'T JUST DROP OUT OF THE SKY!!
A MEDALLION?!
...SNORE...
I'M BEAT
NOTHING BUT MORE WORK MORE FOR SAYS

かぁ〜〜
くら〜〜
NNN?!
UM... ...DO YOU...
DO YOU...
Santa?!

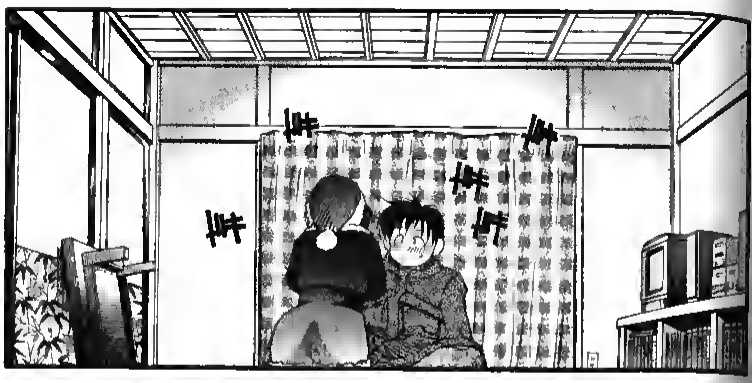
OWAAH!!
WH-WHO ARE YOU? ARE YOU SOME KIND OF BURGLAR?!
How'd you get in here...?
I'M SANTA A WHILE AGO, I DROPPED IN--
I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU
I ALREADY TOLD YOU, I'M SANTA.
IT'S MY RIGHT TO COME AND GO AS NEEDED
?!
ぶりっ

UWAAAH!!
AAAAGH!!
OOF!!
bang
!!
A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WELL, THEN, IF YOU'RE DONE ...
.....
With...
I AM SANTA CLAUS !!
Daze
EARLIER TODAY, I WAS CARE-LESS.
AND I DROPPED A PEN-DANT
UM.. ARE YOU LISTENING ?!
EH?! UH, YEAH ...

I have to tie it on tight this time...
TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION
I WAS WORRIED IT WAS GONE FOR GOOD
I NEED IT, OR ELSE I CAN'T GET BACK TO THE NORTH POLE.
THAT'S IT. THANK YOU
HANG ON! THIS PENDANT?!
Here
So, what will it be?
...I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT. WHATEVER YOUR HEART DESIRES!
REALLY?!
THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT I CAN GIVE, BUT I'LL DO MY BEST.
THIS WON'T DO. I'D FEEL TERRIBLE IF I DIDN'T THANK YOU PROPERLY
I'm a little old to be getting toys...
HUH?! OH, THAT'S OKAY ...

I CAN LOOK INTO YOUR HEART...
...AND SEE WHAT YOU TRULY SEEK, WHAT YOU NEED...
I'M SORRY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
KAORU HANABISHI
KAORU-SAN... RIGHT?
WHAT YOU WANT RIGHT NOW, KAORU-SAN, IS...
FWUMP



I KNOW SHE TOLD ME THAT SHE'S SANTA AND EVERY-THING...
.....

IF ONLY I COULD...
...REALLY CUTE!
SEEING HER FROM THIS CLOSE, SHE'S...
...BUT IS SHE HUMAN?!
HER BODY IS WARM... AND SOFT...

...SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH A GIRL AS CUTE AS SHE IS!!
.....

I-I-I'm sorry. I-I...never thought someone would request such a thing...
Usually you're all so predictable.
UM... DID YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT I WANT?!
YES... THAT IS... UM...
...IF YOU'D REALLY LIKE TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME...
WHAA?! NO! I COULDN'T...
ALTHOUGH THAT WAS WHAT I WAS THINKING
ARE YOU SURE?!
BUT I... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO DO.

NOT YOUR TITLE YOUR NAME
WHAT?! I TOLD YOU-- SANTA!
SO, WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU?
I MEAN, WHAT'S YOUR REAL NAME?
I DON'T HAVE A NAME...
I'M SANTA, AND SANTA IS SANTA
I SEE
Santa-san?! Santa-chan?!
I GUESS IT'S JUST A LITTLE WEIRD TO SAY IT OUT LOUD
HMM
UM... THAT'S OKAY. I DON'T MIND
YOU CAN CALL ME WHATEVER YOU WANT, KAORU-SAN
AH-HA!!
HOW ABOUT... AOI-CHAN?!

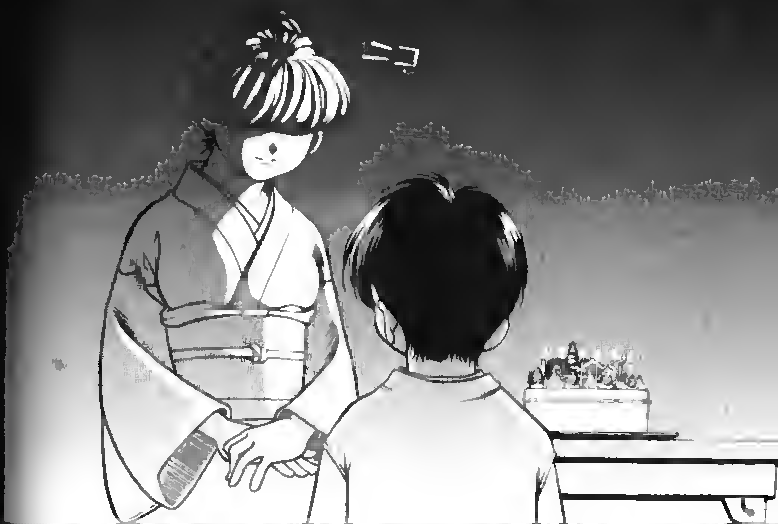
AOI ...
THAT'S A NICE NAME.
IS THAT THE NAME OF A FRIEND OF YOURS?
YEAH. SOMEONE FROM MY CHILDHOOD
WE USED TO PLAY TOGETHER ALL THE TIME
You kind of remind me of her
OOOOH!! COULD IT BE SHE WAS YOUR FIRST LOVE?!
HMMMM ... I DUNNO...
ANYWAY, I HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN FOREVER
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SHE'S DOING RIGHT NOW.
IS THAT SO ...?
WELL, MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU HAD A REUNION !!
EH?!
THAT IS, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO.
?!

IT'S A COMMON MISCONCEP-TION THAT WE CLAUSES CARRY TANGIBLE PRESENTS AROUND ...
...WHEN WHAT WE GIVE IS RARELY MATERIAL.
OUR MOST POPULAR GIFT IS ONE OF DREAMS.
VISIONS OF THE THINGS PEOPLE ENJOY. WHAT MAKES THEM HAPPY.
DREAMS BEING WHAT THEY ARE, MOST ARE FOR-GOTTEN AFTER-WARDS.
THE RECEIVER WAKES UP, AND THEY'RE GONE.

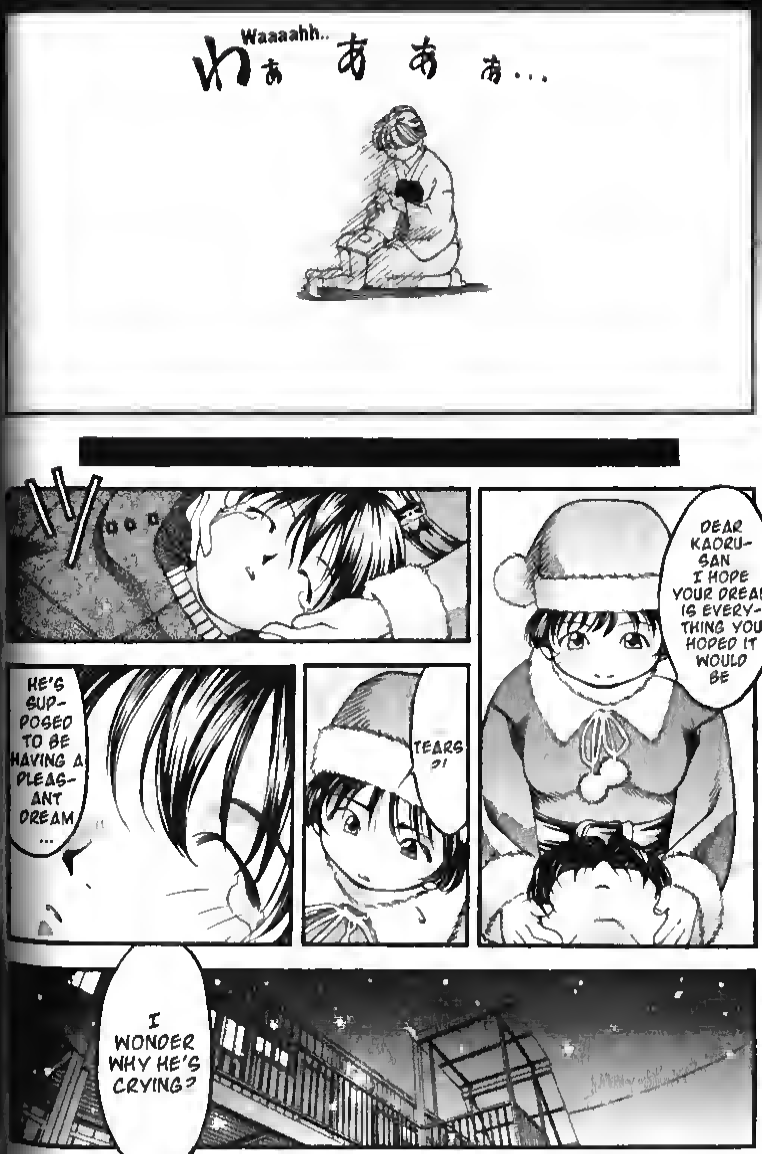
YET THEIR HEART KNOWS THAT FOR A BRIEF TIME THEY WERE HAPPY.
IN TURN, THAT MAKES THE GIVERS HAPPY.
SO, KAORU-SAN, PLEASE THINK ABOUT WHAT WOULD BRING YOU JOY.
THING ABOUT THE GIRL YOU WISH TO SEE.
WHEN YOU DREAM, YOU JUST MIGHT ...
... FIND HER WAITING FOR YOU
SUD-DENLY, I'M GETTING SLEEPY
HUH?! WHAT'S GOING ON?
?!

LET'S EAT IT TOGETHER
NOW, KAORU

SEEMS STRANGELY FAMILIAR
THIS CAKE...



AAHH..
AH.
M-MOTHER!!
MOTHER!! MOTHER!!
MOTHER!!
MY, MY. OH, KAORU, YOU'RE STILL SUCH A CHILD ...
BOYS SHOULDN'T CRY THIS WAY ...

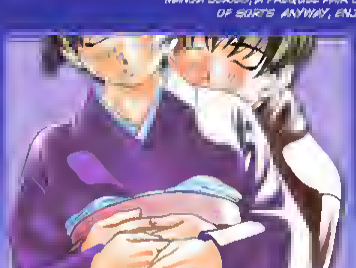

Waaaahh..
わぁあぁぁ...
DEAR KAORU-SAN I HOPE YOUR DREAM IS EVERY-THING YOU HOPED IT WOULD BE
TEARS?!
HE'S SUP-POSED TO BE HAVING A PLEAS-ANT DREAM ...
I WONDER WHY HE'S CRYING?

End of Chapter 43. Miyuki—Deep Snow

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN COURTESY OF *HUMANIST*

THE FOLLOWING TWO CHAPTERS REALLY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED 'SPECIAL CHAPTERS,' NOT THE PREVIOUS ONE AS LISTED IN MY OPINION ONCE YOU READ THEM, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEAN (POSSIBLY THE TRANSLATING PUBLISHER MADE A MISTAKE IN THIS REGARD PRIOR TO PRINTING?!?!)

IN ANY CASE, CHAPTERS 43 & 44 ARE SPECIAL NOT ONLY FOR THE STORY, BUT BECAUSE THE EVENTS UNFOLD PRIOR TO THE OFFICIAL START OF THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE "AI YORI AOSHI" MANGA SERIES, A PREQUEL PAIR OF CHAPTERS OF SORTS ANYWAY, ENJOY



DO YOU STILL BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS?

CHAPTER 44: NEYUKI—LINGERING SNOW

第四十四話　根雪—ねゆき—

WOWEE!!
NNNNN...
AH! GOOD MORNING, KAORU-SAN.
M-M-MORNING!!
YOU SEEM SURPRISED, KAORU-SAN!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME?!
Y-YEAH, AOI-CHAN, THE SANTA!!
BUT I WAS SHOCKED TO SEE HER PANTIES!
BREAKFAST IS READY
I HOPE YOU'RE HUNGRY, I MADE PLENTY

I'm sorry. I'm Santa, so...
TURKEY ?!
For breakfast ?!
CH-CHRISTMAS CAKE AND...
WEEEE! EVERY-ONE'S HAVING SO MUCH FUN!
OH, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT !!
BUT WON'T PEOPLE THINK IT'S STRANGE TO SEE YOU WALKING AROUND ?
Y-YEAH, HEH ...
That makes me so happy!
CAN'T SEE THINGS THEY REFUSE TO BELIEVE IN
YOU'D BE SUR-PRISED HOW PEOPLE

Heh heh
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE IN ME!! I KNEW IT!
UH-HUH
BUT YOU CAN SEE ME, RIGHT, KAORU-SAN?
YES! I'D LOVE TO!!
AOI-CHAN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO SKATING?
IT'S TRUE! IT'S MY VERY FIRST TIME!
It's really hard!
AOI-CHAN, DON'T TELL ME THIS IS...
I-I'm slipping, Kaoru-san~
WA WA WA WA WA!
WHOa! Her arm's so soft!

Oww...
ぽにょ～～～ん
GAH !!
YIKES !!
ステ～～～
ぽにょ～～～ん
AAHH... MY BACK IS COLD AND MY SPINE ACHES ...
...BUT HER CHEST IS NICE AND WARM.
わあああん
Waaah!
AH HA HA!
あはは
WHO? ME? I'M FINE !!
I-I'M SORRY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!
THAT WAS SURE A BIT OF A SHOCK!

Waah!
It HURTS! Mama!
THE PAIN IS FLYING AWAY.
ARE YOU OKAY?! DID YOU FALL?
Please be careful, okay?
COOL! THAT KID CAN SEE AOI-CHAN...
YEAH
THERE! ALL BETTER?
Thank you, Santa-san!
You're welcome
Heh.
KAORU-SAN!

I can't get back!
PLEASE HELP MEEEE!
Not with so many people around.
Can't you just fly?!
Yay!

.....
YEP.
OH! IT'S SNOWING-
..IF IT'S FAIR THAT ONLY I'M HAVING SUCH A GOOD TIME WITH JUST THE TWO OF US
NO.. I WAS JUST WONDERING...
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
CHRISTMAS
...HAVE A MERRY CHRIS-TMAS.
AFTER ALL, IT'S MY DUTY TO HELP OTHERS ...
MAKING EVERYONE ELSE HAPPY IS WHAT MAKES ME HAPPY
I DON'T MIND...
...SHOULDN'T EVEN SANTA BE ALLOWED TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN?
THAT'S TRUE... BUT SOME-TIMES ....

EH?!
...WHAT IF I TOLD YOU IT WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY TO GIVE YOU A PRESENT?
WELL, THEN...

BUT... GEE...
RE-ALLY?!
UH...
WHAT CAN I GIVE YOU?!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, AOI-CHAN?!

For a Santa to get a present
I'M NOT SURE THERE'S ANYTHING I WANT.
I-I'M SORRY. I'VE.. NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED WHAT SOME-ONE MIGHT GIVE ME.

CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST OVER
IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT
rk Station—
AOI-CHAN'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO GO HOME
HER WORK WILL BE DONE.
SO, YOU HAVE TO...
GO BACK NOW !!
THANK YOU FOR SUCH A LOVELY DAY.
CHRISTMAS WITH YOU WAS UNLIKE ANY I'D EVER HAD BEFORE
KAORU-CAN !!
STILL, THAT I WAS ABLE TO SPEND EVEN THIS MUCH TIME WITH HER...
I MUST! I'M SANTA CLAUS!
OF COURSE !!

!!
THERE ARE STILL MANY CHILDREN FOR ME TO VISIT
IT'S TIME
MAY EVERYONE
...HAVE PLEASANT DREAMS IN THE NEW YEAR.

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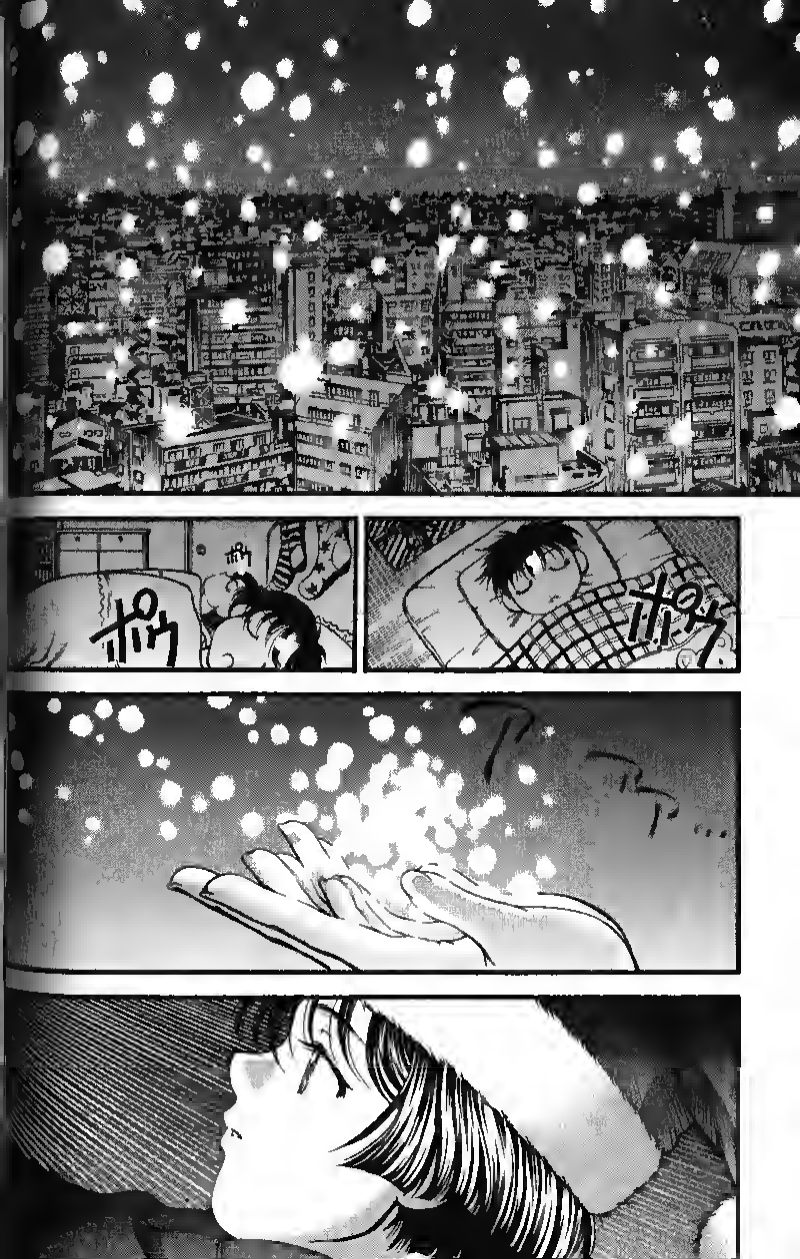
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SO THAT'S WHY KAORU-SAN WAS CRYING BACK THEN.
I SEE ...
WHEN PEOPLE REMEMBER THE HAPPIEST MOMENT IN THEIR LIVES...
...THEIR TEARS START TO OVERFLOW.

BEFORE I GO...
KAORU-SAN
.....
AOI-CHAN ...
BEFORE I GO... MAY I HAVE MY PRESENT?

KAORU-SAN...
I'M PRAYING....
I'M PRAYING THAT ONE DAY YOU CAN MEET THE REAL AOI-CHAN...

I REALLY WANTED TO BE...
...NO ONE'S SANTA BUT YOURS.
KAORU-SAN.
I REALLY...

End of Chapter 44: Neyuki—Lingering Snow

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
HUMANIST

SNOWFLAKES OF HOPE! DREAMS,
TEARS OPTIONAL...

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

第四十五話　供御一くご一

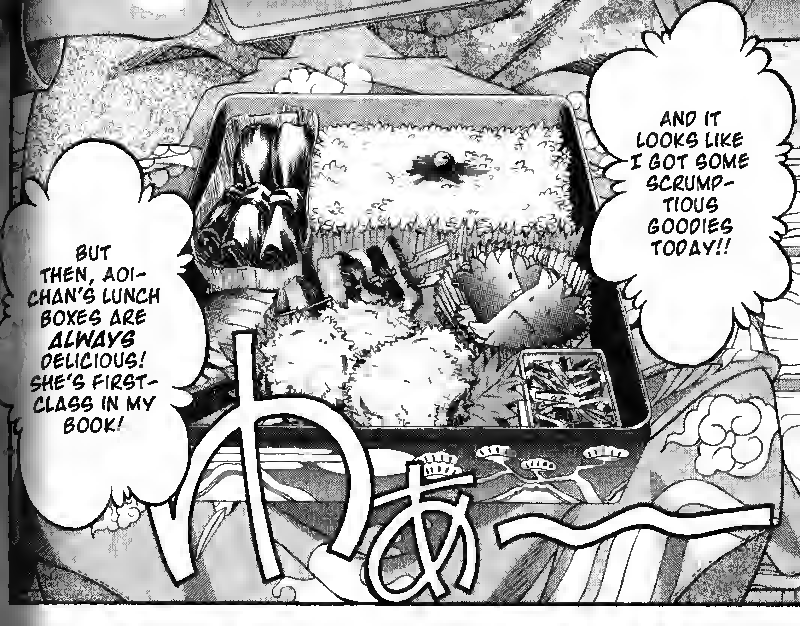
CHAPTER 45 KUGO EMPEROR'S MEAL

HUMPH! THANK GOODNESS THAT'S OVER--!
HEY, LOOK, IT'S THAT GIRL!!
THEY SAY SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THE GUY THAT OWNS MIYUKI CLOTHING!
SHE MUST BE TOTALLY LOADED. THEN, HUH?!
YOUR EFFORTS ARE APPRECIATED!
WHY IS THE JAPANESE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM SO BORING?
BEYOND LOADED! SHE'S PRACTICALLY ROYALTY! SHE LIVES THE LIFE OF A PRINCESS
I HEAR SHE GREW UP OVERSEAS AND WAS ONLY SIXTEEN WHEN SHE GOT ACCEPTED TO THIS UNIVERSITY
NO WAY! I BET HER OLD MAN BRIBED SOMEONE, AND SHE'S NOT REALLY THAT SMART

MAYU-SAMA
!!
.....
コソ コソ
I wonder if she heard us?
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU IN THE CAR...
AAHH !!
HA!
NA!
BI!
SHI!

SAMA !!
World Technology
TECH
GUWAH!
GEEZ! THAT'S TOTALLY NOT LADY-LIKE..!
Long time, no see, Hana-bishi-sama!
Mayu's been so lonely because she couldn't see you for so long!
Whaddaya mean "so long"?!
YOU SAW HIM JUST YESTERDAY !!

ARE YOU OKAY?! SENPAI?
キュン～～
Would you please stop imitating Mayu's style?
Can't you relax for even one second?!
キラーン
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! HUH, HANABISHI-SAMA?
I'M JUST EATING MY LUNCH HONEST
TECHNO
MMMMM? YOU DON'T HAVE TO EAT AT A PLACE LIKE THIS, YOU KNOW.
MAYU CAN TREAT YOU TO A LUNCH PREPARED BY A FIRST-CLASS CHEF!
I'M SURE THAT'D BE TASTY AND EVERY-THING
...BUT I REALLY LIKE EATING LUNCH OUT-SIDE WITH EVERYONE LIKE THIS.
World Tech

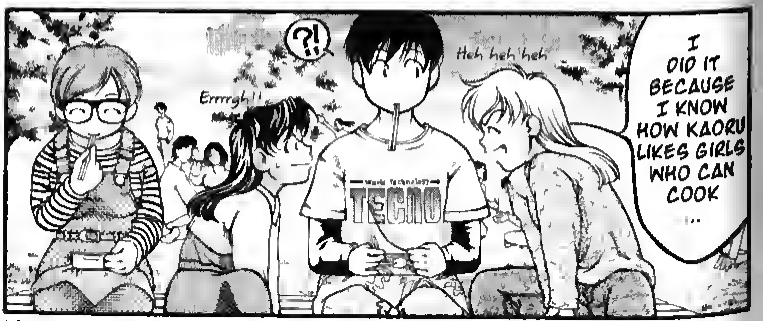

AND IT LOOKS LIKE I GOT SOME SCRUMPTIOUS GOODIES TODAY!!
BUT THEN, AOI-CHAN'S LUNCH BOXES ARE ALWAYS DELICIOUS! SHE'S FIRST-CLASS IN MY BOOK!
ゆあ～～

THAT'S RIGHT, THE FOOD OUR LANDLADY MAKES
. IS BETTER THAN ANYTHING YOU CAN BUY WITH YOUR PAPA'S MONEY!!
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW? YOU'RE TOO POOR TO TRY
YOU PIG! YOU DON'T JUST GO AROUND GRABBING OTHER PEOPLE'S FOOD!!
YOU SHOULD THANK ME. IT REALLY WASN'T THAT GOOD
モグ
モグ
モグ
WELL I GUESS IT'S NOT THAT BAD, EITHER ..
……
もぐ

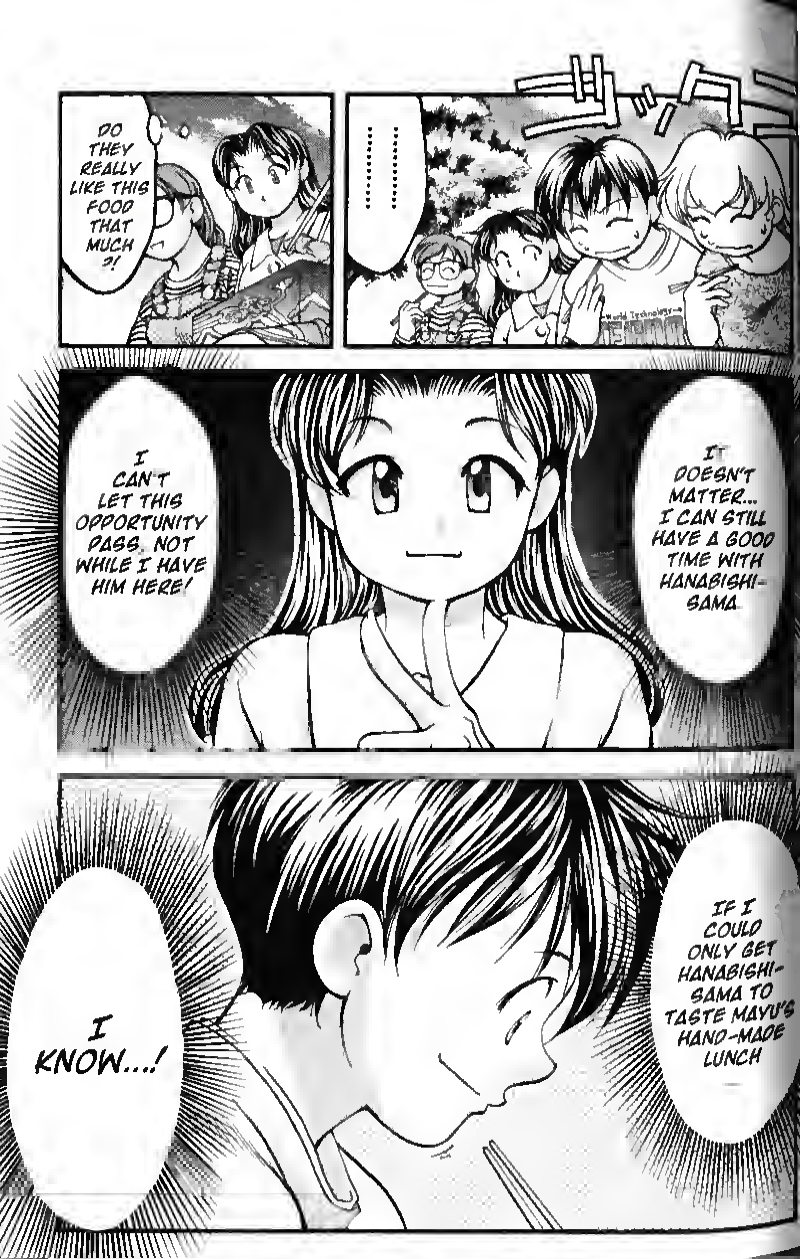
HOW DARE YOU PUT YOUR GRUBBY MITTS ON MY FOOD AND THEN GET ALL BITCHY ABOUT IT!
ICK! EATING MY HAND IS NOT AN APPRO-PRIATE RESPONSE!
You're disgusting!!
Grudges over food are scary!!

A sea anemone!
You noticed?! I wanted it to look like a sea anemone!

HEY! YOU MADE THIS COCK-TAIL WIENER, DIDN'T YOU, TINA?

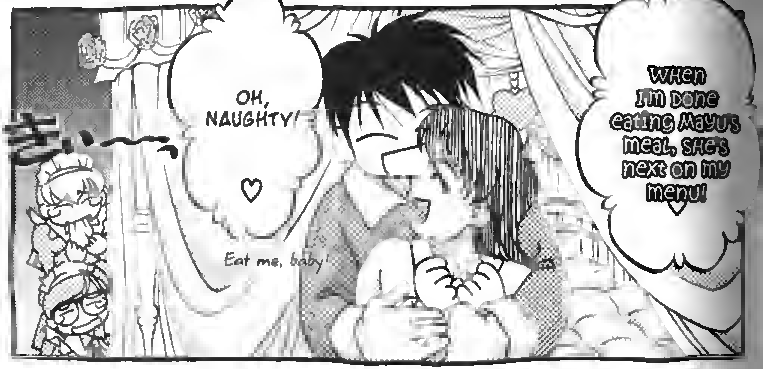

?!
Errrrgh!!
Heh heh heh
TECNO
I DID IT BECAUSE I KNOW HOW KAORU LIKES GIRLS WHO CAN COOK ...

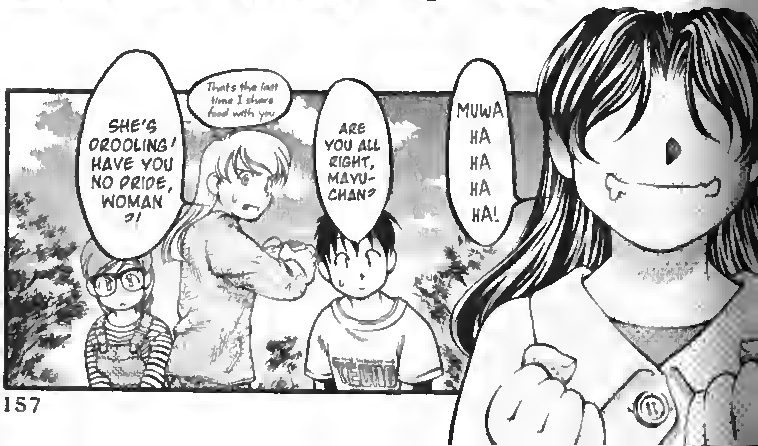
IT'S TOMATO WRAPPED IN CHOCOLATE.
YES !!
DID YOU PREPARE THIS TEMPURA, TAEKO-CHAN?!
.....
..EH?!
UH, YEAH
IT'S REALLY YUMMY!
NO, REALLY, IT TASTES SUPER !!

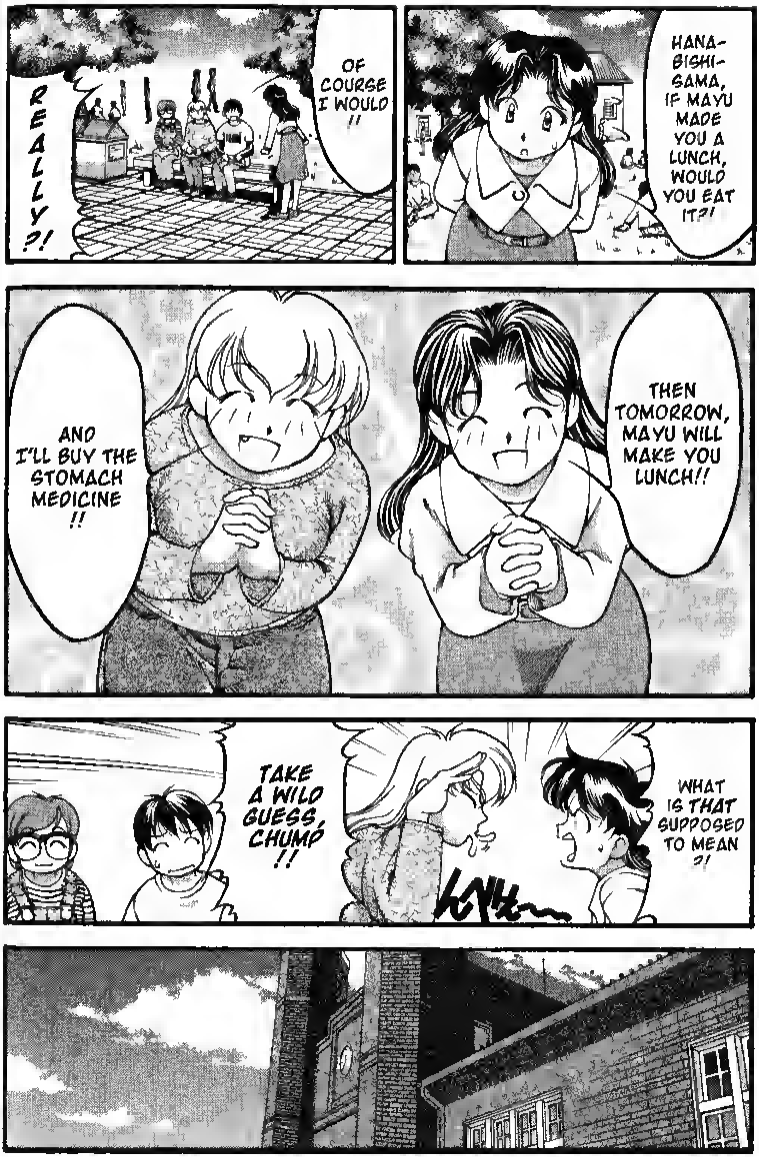

DO THEY REALLY LIKE THIS FOOD THAT MUCH ?!
.....
IT DOESN'T MATTER... I CAN STILL HAVE A GOOD TIME WITH HANABISHI-SAMA.
I CAN'T LET THIS OPPORTUNITY PASS. NOT WHILE I HAVE HIM HERE!
IF I COULD ONLY GET HANABISHI-SAMA TO TASTE MAYU'S HAND-MADE LUNCH
I KNOW...!

This is great !!
Better than anything I've ever had!!
Will you make lunch for me tomorrow, too? And every other day for the rest of my life?!
OF COURSE! ♡ ANYTHING FOR YOU, HANABISHI-SAMA!
I love you!! I'll never let go of you until the day I die, Mayu!
I'M SO HAPPY!! MY DARLING HANABISHI-SAMA!

Everything that Mayu has cooked is like heaven in my mouth!!
BUT OF COURSE, DEAR! I TOLD YOU I WAS EXCEPTIONAL


When I'm done eating Mayu's meal, she's next on my menu!
OH, NAUGHTY!
Eat me, baby!

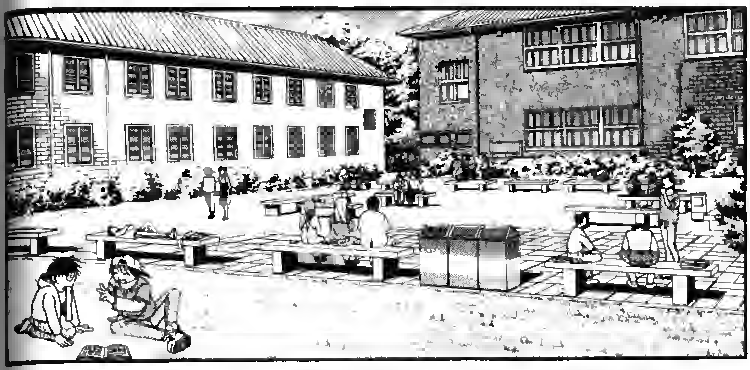

MUWA HA HA HA HA!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MAYU-CHAN?
That's the last time I share food with you.
SHE'S DROOLING! HAVE YOU NO PRIDE, WOMAN?!

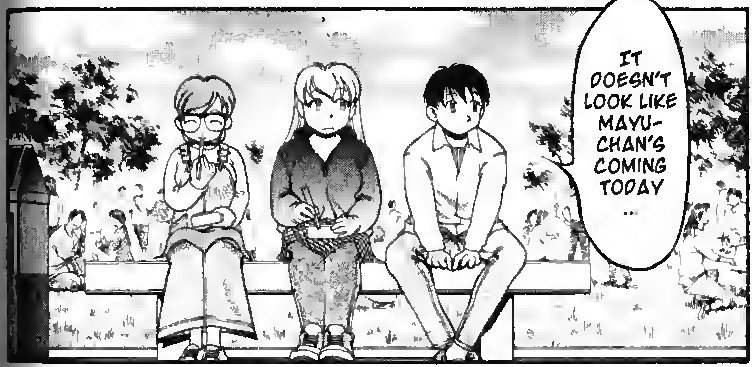

HANA-BISHI-SAMA, IF MAYU MADE YOU A LUNCH, WOULD YOU EAT IT?!
OF COURSE I WOULD !!
REALLY?!
THEN TOMORROW, MAYU WILL MAKE YOU LUNCH!!
AND I'LL BUY THE STOMACH MEDICINE !!
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN ?!
TAKE A WILD GUESS, CHUMP !!

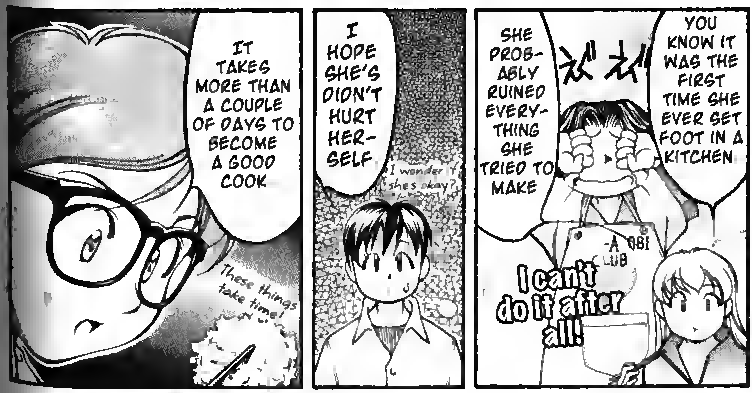
OKAY, MAYU IS MAKING LUNCH!
THE FIRST DISH WILL BE A SOLE MEUNIERE.
STEP ONE... TURN ON THE STOVE.
STEP TWO, POUR IN THE OIL...
ボト
EEEEK!!

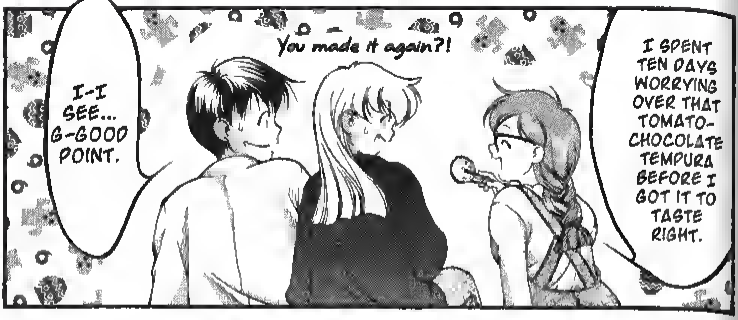
WHO KNEW COOKING WAS SO DANGER-OUS?
Maybe I should stick with Japanese food.
SUDDENLY, MEUNIERE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SUCH A GOOD IDEA
PUT THE FISH IN THE PORTABLE STOVE
.....
I'VE GOT IT! WHEN IT'S HOME-MADE FOOD YOU WANT, THE ONLY REAL CHOICE IS ONIGIRI!!
ASSIST CLUB

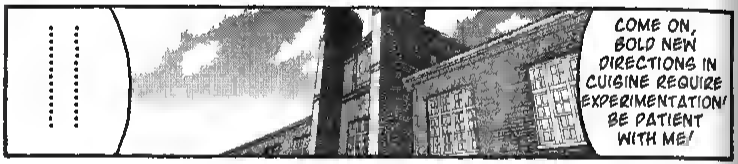
ボロ
AH...!
AH...
WELL, THEY MAY NOT BE PRETTY ...
Uh-huh
...BUT AT LEAST THEY TASTE LIKE RICE!
I-ASOBI CLUB
Futility
MAYU WILL NOT LOSE !!



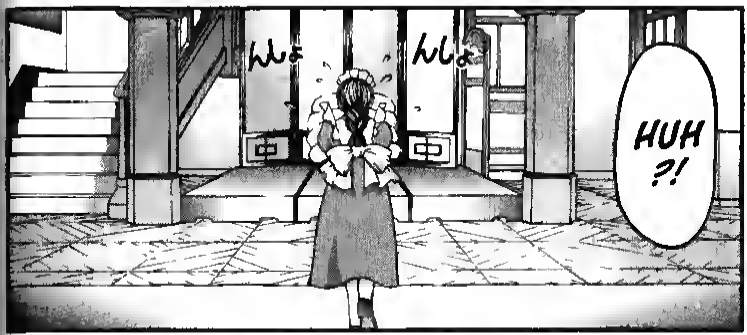

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MAYU-CHAN'S COMING TODAY ...


IT TAKES MORE THAN A COUPLE OF DAYS TO BECOME A GOOD COOK
These things take time!
I HOPE SHE'S DION'T HURT HER-SELF
I wonder if she's okay?
SHE PROB-ABLY RUINED EVERY-THING SHE TRIED TO MAKE
ズ ズ
YOU KNOW IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SHE EVER SET FOOT IN A KITCHEN
-A 081 LUB
I can't do it after all!


You made it again?!
I-I SEE... G-GOOD POINT.
I SPENT TEN DAYS WORRYING OVER THAT TOMATO-CHOCOLATE TEMPURA BEFORE I GOT IT TO TASTE RIGHT.


.....
COME ON, BOLD NEW DIRECTIONS IN CUISINE REQUIRE EXPERIMENTATION! BE PATIENT WITH ME!

WEL-COME BACK.
WE'RE HOME!


HUH ?!

UH, UM, KAORU-SAMA...
TAEKO-CHAN?!
THAT'S NOT YOU, IS IT?

ACTUALLY...

AH! HEY, EVERYONE! WELCOME HOME!
HELLO, HANABISHI-SAMA! ♡

.....
WHAA?!
MAYU-CHAN ?!
Tee hee!
エヘヘ

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
HUMANIST

CAN FOOT FINALLY OPEN THE
DOOR TO HANABISHI'S HEART
FOR A YEARNING KISS...?

藍より青し

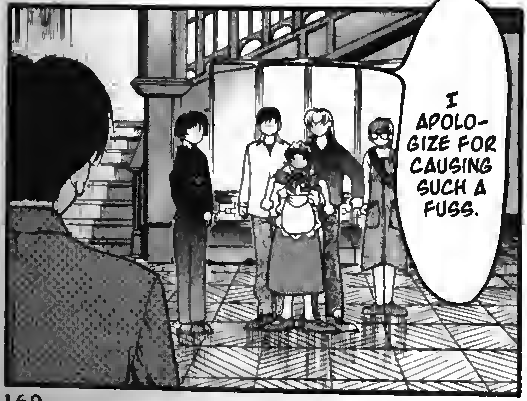
AI YORI AOSHI

CHAPTER 46: MAKANAI = COOK

第四十六話　賄い―まかない―

You're finally back! Yay!
M-MAYU-CHAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
MAYU IS HERE TO SERVE YOU, HANABISHI-SAMA.

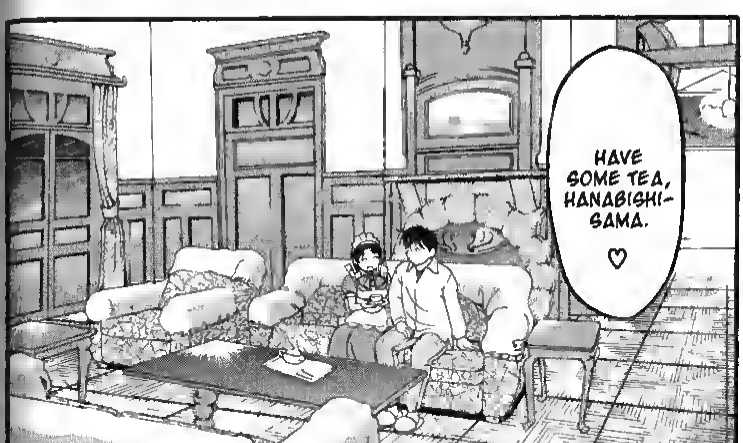
LANDLADY-SAN, WHAT'S GOING ON?! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE PLANNING TO LET THIS BRAT LIVE HERE?!
Waaah! What are you doing?!
いたこばた


I APOLO-GIZE FOR CAUSING SUCH A FUSS.

Please, calm down.
OH, NO... NOT AT ALL.

MAYU-SAMA FELT THAT IT WAS TIME SHE LEARNED TO MAINTAIN A HOUSEHOLD
FROM ALL THE PRAISE YOU BESTOWED UPON YOUR LANDLADY, MAYU-SAMA DETERMINED THAT AOI SAKURABA WOULD BE THE IDEAL TEACHER
THAT'S RIGHT. IF HANABISHI-SAMA'S COOK IS THE ONE WHO KNOWS BEST HOW TO PLEASE HIS STOMACH, THEN SHE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SHOW ME THE WAY!
A-Aoi-sama, let it go
C-cook
I'M SORRY!!
I NEVER IMAGINED MAYU-CHAN WOULD RESORT TO THIS.

IT'S NOT KAORU-SAMA'S FAULT
PLEASE WAIT, MIYABI-SAN
Huff puff
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
KAORU-SAMA, PLEASE
DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD THIS IS ON AOI-SAMA?!
WHY DID YOU ENCOURAGE HER IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
MIYABI-SAAAN! I'M GOING TO PUT ALL THESE BROKEN DISHES OUTSIDE!
Was there an earthquake or something?
See?
I'M PERFECTLY FINE!!
IRI IRI IRI


HAVE SOME TEA, HANABISHI-SAMA. ♡

THANKS.
BY THE WAY, I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF LOOKING AT YOUR ROOM--
WHAT ?!
Y-YOU SAW IT?! MAYU-CHAN !

It's beautiful, Hanabishi-sama!!
Eh?!

JUST IMAGINING YOU, HANABISHI-SAMA, CHOOSING TO LIVE IN SUCH A TACKY ROOM IN ORER TO BETTER UNDER-STAND HOW THE COMMON PEOPLE LIVE! WHAT A SACRIFICE!
MAYU IS TRÉS IMPRESSED !!
Yo!
You're so noble!
ARE YOU SLACKING OFF AGAIN, STINKY MAY-EWWW ?!
You still have chores to do!
Every single time
KEEP YOUR MAN-HANDS TO YOUR-SELF!
キリギリ

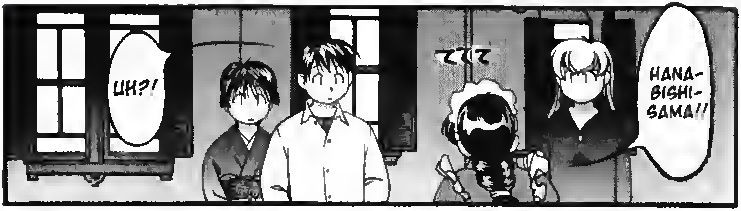
MAYU IS NOW A MAID IN THIS HOUSE-HOLD.
I'd appreciate it if you would stay out of my way!
AS A RESULT, I AM REQUIRED TO BE HOS-PITABLE!! I WILL NOT SQUABBLE!
Miyabi-san!
Complete victory!!

SO, WHAT KIND OF FOOD DO YOU USUALLY HAVE?!
HMMM, WELL, WE GENERALLY HAVE BEEF AND POTATOES OR FRIED FISH...
REALLY?! AND YOU DON'T FEEL ASHAMED FEEDING HIM SUCH BLAND MEALS?
I WANT HANABISHI-SAMA TO EAT ACCORDING TO HIS STATION IT'LL ONLY BE ELEGANT, GORGEOUS DISHES FROM HERE ON OUT
Like French or Italian cuisine

Aoi-sama!
Plain food
BUT SENPAI REALLY LIKES JAPANESE FOOD
HMM... WELL, IF HE LIKES IT, I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED
THEN YOU ADD THE SEASONING, TAKING NOTE OF HOW HOT THE FIRE HAS GROWN
HMM, I GET IT...
WHEN MAYU MARRIES HANABISHI-SAMA, SHE'LL BE ABLE TO COOK JAPANESE FOOD FOR HIM LIKE THIS EVERY DAY!

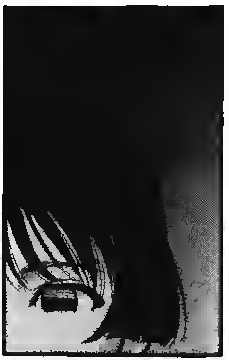
BUT WHAT WILL I CALL HANABISHI-SAMA WHEN HE'S MY HUBBY?
How about Darling?
NYA HA HA!
N-n-n-next you add the s-sugar ...
A-AOI-SAN, THAT'S NOT SUGAR, IT'S MSG...
And he'll call Mayu "My Honey"
H-HUH?! HOW COME TAE-CHIN MADE DINNER TODAY?
I DIDN'T! AOI-SAN DID!
THIS ISN'T THE SORT OF THING MAYU CAME HERE TO LEARN ...

IT'S NO BIG DEAL, AOI-CHAN. IT'S JUST THAT EVERY-THING YOU MAKE IS ALWAYS SO DELICIOUS.
I-I'M SORRY ...
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITAL-ITY.
AWW, CAN'T WE STAY A LITTLE LONGER?
IT'S TIME FOR US TO TAKE OUR LEAVE.


UH?!
HANA-BISHI-SAMA!!

GOOD NIGHT...MY DARLING!

Go home now!
NOOOOO! DON'T MAKE ME LEAVE MY SWEET, SWEET HANABISHI-SAMA!!
JUST HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON RUBBING YOUR PARTS ALL OVER HIM?!



You wouldn't dare!
We'll be back!
Sigh...
KAORU-SAMA!!
UH, COME IN...
!!

THAT YOU WANTED TO SEE ME
Kaory done may I have a moment of your time?
NO. IT WAS MIYABI-SAN WHO TOLO ME.
HUH ?!
IS SOME-THING WRONG? I USUALLY DON'T SEE YOU THIG LATE
If Miyabi-san found you, she'd kill you!
AH!!
Heh, heh!
Tee hee!
AOI-CHAN... I REALLY AM SORRY ABOUT TODAY. I HAD NO IDEA SHE'D PULL THAT KIND OF STUNT.

NO... I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE PATIENT WITH HER.
I JUST MADE THINGS DIFFICULT FOR YOU AND THE GIRLS, AND EVEN MAYU-GAN..
WHY IS IT THAT I AM ALWAYS AT MY WORST WHEN I AM NEEDED THE MOST ...?
NEXT TIME YOU ASK ME TO DO SOME-THING, I'LL BE BETTER !
I'LL TRY EVEN HARDER !!
IF I DON'T... IF I DON'T, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO...
AOI-CHAN!!

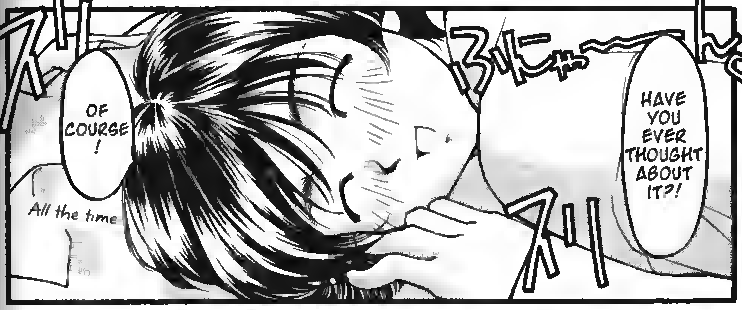
I'M GETTING TIRED OF HAVING TO HIDE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE MY FIANCÉE. EVERY TIME I MEET SOMEONE, I WANT TO TELL THEM HOW HAPPY I AM.

KAORU-SAMA !!

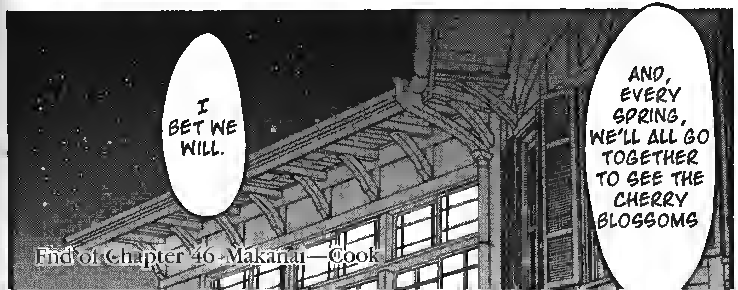
KA ~

I was so happy
IT'S OKAY. REALLY.
I-I'M SO SORRY, I...!
WHOA!
I DON'T EVER WANT YOU TO BE ASHAMED .. OF YOUR FIANCÉE.
I'M STILL GOING TO TRY MY HARDEST.
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY WAY I COULDN'T BE PROUD TO HAVE YOU AS MY FIANCÉE.
.....

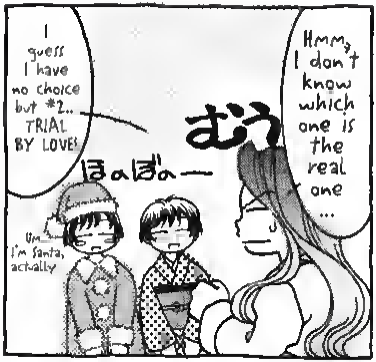
FOR YOU TO SAY THAT TO ME, KAORU-SAMA...
...IT'S THE SWEETEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD IN MY LIFE.



I'll have to have Miyabi-san teach me how to discipline them—but
OUR HOUSE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE VERY BIG.
WE'LL HAVE THREE CHILDREN.



End of Chapter 46 - Makanai — Cook



Ai-Ao Theatre, part 11

Big Hill Judgment

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THANKS

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THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN COURTESY OF *HUMANIST*

MAYU TESTS THE FRAZZLED NERVES OF EVEN POOR AOI-CHAN IN THIS FINAL CHAPTER OF VOLUME 5. YET, OF COURSE, HAVING THE PERSON YOU LOVE MOST AT YOUR SIDE HEALS EVEN THE WORST OF MENTAL ILLS, DON'T YOU THINK?